PLDT tug-of-war: Now, it's Cojuangco vs Pangilinan

Story below, Col. A2

élan

- Reclaiming myself
- RP Pearls: A matter of pride
- Sari-Sari Store in New York

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, October 5, 2002 ★ 88 pages / 7 sections / vol. 17 / no. 299 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Paeng, partner bag RP's 1st gold

By Al Mendoza, *Sports Editor*

BUSAN, South Korea—Veteran Paeng Nepomuceno and rookie RJ Bautista finally struck gold for the Philippines Friday night when they won the men's doubles in bowling in the Asian Games here.

The duo combined for 2714 pinfalls,

PAENG/ A21

Soldiers did it, says freed GMA reporter

TV crew to file charges vs military asset, escorts

FIRST stop of GMA 7 cameraman Gilbert Ordiales (center, left) and reporter Carlo Lorenzo after planing in from Zamboanga was the Palace to thank President Macapagal for their safe release. With them is GMA 7 president/CEO Felipe Gozon (extreme left). EDWIN BACASMAS

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two soldiers providing security for a female military asset were behind the abduction of a television reporter and a cameraman on Sept. 28 in Indanan, Sulu.

GMA 7 reporter Carlo Lorenzo made this disclosure yesterday, saying the soldiers initially announced a holdup. He said both he and cameraman Gilbert Ordiales were "too scared" to look at the names on the soldiers' combat fatigues.

Lorenzo aired the suspicion that military asset Hadja Leng—whose real name is Hadja Leng Jurma Abdurajak Imran—had something to do with their abduction.

He said this was why he decided to include her in his complaint, along with Kumander Arola Abubakar of the Moro National Liberation Front.

But Hadja Leng has denied participation in the abduction, according to Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, commander of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade.

Tolentino also confirmed that because of Hadja Leng's value as an asset, the military provided her with military escorts.

Nevertheless, Tolentino has turned her over to the police for custody.

Supt. Arip Baanan told the INQUIRER that charges of kidnapping with serious illegal detention had been prepared against Hadja Leng and would be filed on Monday.

Ordiales and Lorenzo, who had earlier been working on a story on the kidnapping of three Indonesians, were released unharmed Thursday in the mountains of Jolo.

SOLDIERS/ A21

SGT. FIRST CLASS MARK JACKSON: Among the best AP

He knew he was on dangerous mission

TRAVERSE CITY, Michigan—Mark Wayne Jackson was devoted to his job, but on a recent trip home to Michigan the Green Beret sergeant 1st Class expressed concerns about an upcoming mission.

Jackson was headed to Zamboanga City, near the site of bloody battles between terrorists linked to the al-Qaida network and US-backed Philippine government troops.

In early September at his parents' home in Glennie, Jackson, 40, a 17-year military veteran, fished for trout with his younger brother Richard and mentioned he was headed to one of the world's terrorism hotspots.

"He knew he was going on a dangerous mission," Jackson's father, William, said Thursday. "Rick begged him not to go. Mark said, 'There's just things you have to do.'"

Mark Jackson died Wednesday when a nail-laden bomb exploded outside a restaurant near a military base camp.

Authorities blamed the attack on the Abu Sayyaf terror group.

HE KNEW/ A4

Slain man no longer bombing suspect

By Martin P. Marfil, *in Manila*
and Julie S. Alipala,
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ONE of two men earlier suspected of pulling off the "suicide bombing" in Zamboanga City Wednesday night is no longer a suspect.

Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, chief of the Armed Forces public information office, yesterday told reporters that the military was investigating whether Bernard Limba had any links to the Abu Sayyaf. "But he is not a suspect," Servando said.

Servando added, however, that "in this kind of a situation, we just cannot immediately write off anybody."

Limba and his cousin Marlon Tuballa were the two Filipino civilians who died in the bomb attack that also killed an American Green Beret identified as Sgt. Mark Jackson. (*See story on this page.*) Earlier reports said they were being suspected as suicide bombers—an accusation that their families vehemently denied.

Agents of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation arrived yesterday in Zamboanga City to look into the bomb attack.

The bomb was supposedly beside a motorcycle parked in front of a videoke bar.

Supt. Mario Yanga, Zamboan-

SLAIN/ A21

134 solons now back Jimenez

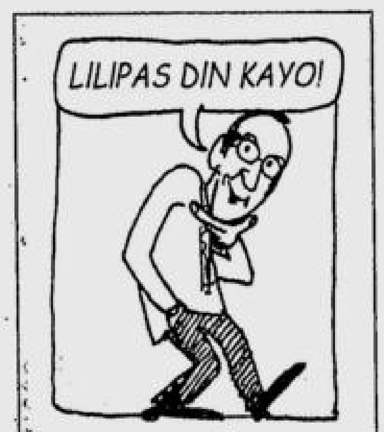
By Juliet L. Javellana

A TOTAL of 134 congressmen have thrown their support behind their embattled colleague, Mark Jimenez. And one of them has come up with something to turn against the man who's trying to have him arrested and eventually extradited to the United States.

One of his staunchest supporters, Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, accused Justice Secretary Hernando Perez of singling out the Manila congressman while his similarly situated client is out on bail.

Dilangalen disclosed that the law firm of Secretary Perez was the counsel of former Quezon Gov. Eduardo Rodriguez, who is out on bail while facing extradition proceedings for insurance fraud in the United States.

134 SOLONS/ A21



LILIPAS DIN KAYO!

Garchi's swan song: Call me FPJ

By Volt Contreras

MEET the new FPJ—former presiding justice, that is.

This was how retiring Sandiganbayan chief Francis Garchitorena was introduced during a farewell program yesterday that was attended by his fellow magistrates and close to 300 court employees.

The program was a song-and-dance affair, which Garchitorena had preferred to a formal ceremony.

GARCHITORENA'S/ A21

Cafgus to secure RP-claimed Spratly isles

SPECIAL REPORT

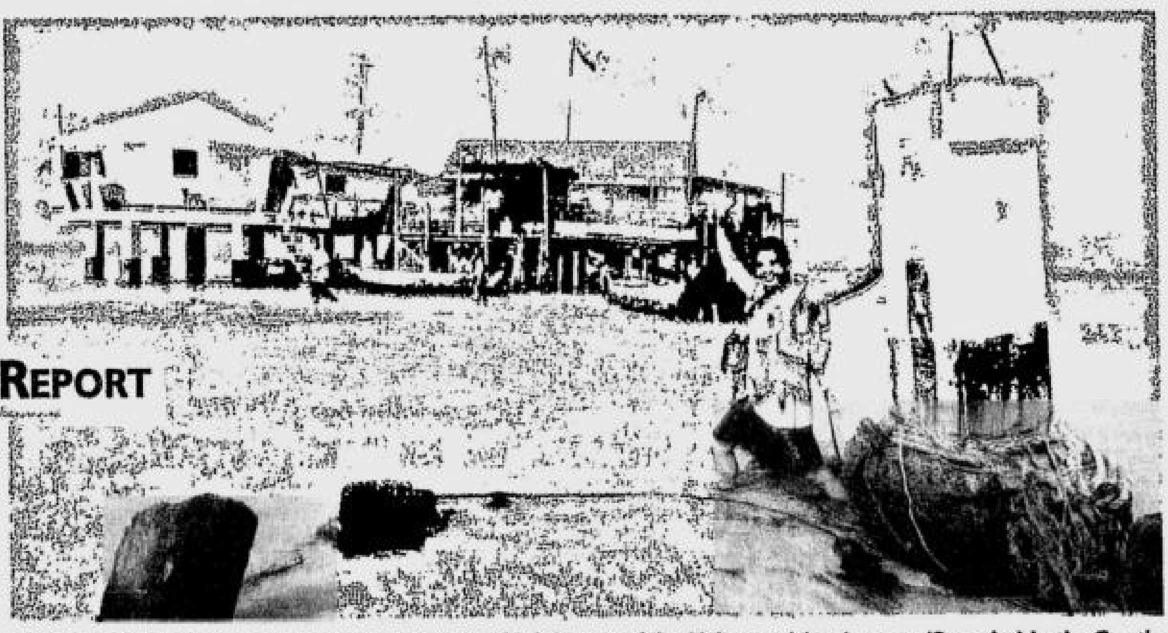
By Jerry Esplanada

SPRATLYS, South China Sea—To further assert the Philippine claim over the Spratlys, the Philippine Navy is seriously considering deploying at least 200 Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units or Cafgus in the disputed areas.

So, expect the country's tricolors to flutter high above the 30-plus proud islets, reefs, shoals and cays being claimed by the Philippines in the Kalayaan island group (Spratlys).

Philippine troops are currently stationed in only nine areas in Kalayaan: the island of Pag-asa (also known as Thitu), the reefs Rizal

CAFGUS/ A20



RIZAL Reef also known as Commodore Reef, which is part of the Kalayaan island group (Spratlys) in the South China Sea, is one of nine areas occupied by Filipino troops. Note the "Philippines" marker. DENNIS SABANGAN

PLDT: Now it's Cojuangco vs Pangilinan

By Doris C. Dumlao, Abigail L. Ho and Raul C. Dancel

THE MAJORITY owner of Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd. is reportedly keen on winning over a key player in the group that thwarted its bid to sell its controlling stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Persons familiar with the matter yesterday told the INQUIRER that Indonesia's Salim family had sent word that they were keen on allying themselves with PLDT chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco against renegade First Pacific executive chair and PLDT chief executive Manuel Pangilinan.

Cojuangco and Pangilinan teamed up to frustrate the bidded First Pacific to sell its PLDT stake to the group headed by John Gokongwei.

PLDT insiders said the Salims recently revived initiatives to set up a meeting with Cojuangco through an emissary.

Cojuangco, who is in Los Angeles seeking medical treatment for a throat ailment, has reportedly sent word he is willing to sit down with the Salims.

One source said the Salims acknowledged that Cojuangco's support was crucial for it to convince the PLDT board to oust Pangilinan as PLDT chief

PLDT/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/05/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Court frees 122 Chinese poachers

JOAN BONDOC

CHINESE fishermen arrive at the Manila Domestic Airport from Puerto Princesa Friday on their way home to China.

By **Dominique Monera-Tabora**, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*
and **Michael Lim Ubac**

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The 122 Chinese illegal fishermen convicted of poaching were ordered released by a court here which denied petitions from the Palawan governor and a non-government organization to defer their release until after they paid in full the court-imposed and other fines amounting to P50 million.

The fishermen, escorted by Chinese embassy officials, were allowed to board an Air Philippines flight for Manila despite the absence of a court order for their release. The release order was still being prepared when they left.

The 122 Chinese, who became the center of a diplomatic squabble with China, pleaded guilty in court last week to poaching and were fined P2,000 each. A total of $600,000 in penalties was also imposed for the six boats seized from them.

But a Chinese embassy official said only $50,000 in fines were imposed for the boats.

The official said the fishermen would be flown to China in batches over the week.

The fishermen were arrested for illegal fishing in separate incidents more than six months ago in the waters off Palawan where the Philippines and Palawan have territorial disputes. They confessed after a plea bargain and negotiations between the two governments. Their time in jail was considered as time served.

Judge Perfecto Pe denied an urgent motion from the Palawan provincial government asking the court not to release the fishermen until they paid the full amount of the fines and reimbursed the provincial government for food and medical expenses.

Pe also rejected "for lack of merit" a motion by the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development asking that the court sentence the illegal fishermen to "subsdiary imprisonment" for failing to pay the fines in full.

The judge argued that there was no law providing for subsidiary imprisonment in case poachers or violators of Section 87 of RA 8550, or the Philippine Fisheries Code, failed to pay the fines ordered by the court.

But the court recommended that the government, through a law or an executive order, amend the Fisheries Code to provide for such subsidiary imprisonment.

The $50,000 paid by the Chinese represents only 8.3 percent of the $600,000 penalty stipulated in their court sentence.

In Manila, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said justice officials were already preparing a draft measure to amend the Fisheries Code and allow for "subsidiary imprisonment" provision for poachers who are unable to pay the fines imposed by the court.

He said the draft amendment would be sent this month to House Speaker Jose De Venecia, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra.

He said convicted poachers who cannot pay the fines should be jailed instead.

Perez also said that he would ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the conversion of the impounded fishing vessels of the Chinese poachers into patrol boats to be turned over to the Palawan government for use in the drive to curb illegal fishing and protect the environment.

Perez explained that the justice department cannot just turn over the vessels to Palawan provincial officials without a written directive from Ms Macapagal as the confiscated boats were the property of the national government.

Environment groups assail Sinos' release

ENVIRONMENT groups yesterday assailed the release of the 122 Chinese fishermen who pleaded guilty to poaching and were allowed to go free despite failing to pay the court-ordered fines in full.

Allowing the Chinese to go without making them pay for their destruction of the Philippine environment was "a travesty against the Philippine Republic and the laws it must uphold to protect its people," the Worldwide Fund Phil. said in a statement.

"The offended party will always be the Filipino people, their children, and their children's children," said the WWF-Phil., a conservation organization.

Norwin Abes, a lawyer from the WWF's Palawan office, said the members of law enforcement teams who helped in the arrest of the Chinese in Palawan and Tubbataha Reef were disappointed and frustrated by the national government's stance on the issue which became the center of a diplomatic row with China.

The Chinese were allowed to plead guilty in a plea bargain after negotiations between the two governments.

A total of P55 million in fines to the immigration, fisheries and customs bureaus were waived because of the intervention of the justice department.

"Much of the public sentiment in Palawan is that the national government itself has sold off their efforts in exchange for foreign favors," Abes said.

"Our own national government shortchanged us. Instead of helping us, they became the obstacle. This is a big blow to our law enforcers)," Abe said. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

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BOMB PROBER AFP

A US Navy investigator photograph traces evidence on top of a vehicle near a videoke bar in Zamboanga City where an American serviceman was killed by a bomb attack Wednesday night.

Palace admits power bills up, blames peso

PPA charges in electricity bills have gone up again, Malacañang admitted yesterday.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said rising oil prices and the weak peso were to blame for this.

He said world oil prices went up due to the impending war in the Middle East, while the peso fell due to a sharp demand for dollars for oil imports.

"These are beyond the President's control," he said.

From P3.30 per kwh in April, Meralco's PPA came down to P1.71 in July. In August, it went up to P1.94, and in September it was down again to P1.89. This month, it's up once more to P2.03 per kwh.

The Manila Electric Company explained that "changes" in its PPA (purchased power adjustment) was the result of variations in the selling rate of its suppliers, specifically the National Power Corporation (NPC), which accounts for about 65 percent of Meralco's supply, and the independent power producers (IPPs) which deliver the remaining 35 percent.

Jesus P. Francisco, Meralco president and chief executive officer, echoed Bunye's statement. "Selling rates could change every month as a result of movements in fuel prices, foreign exchange rates, and energy consumption for the supply month," he said.

This was why the cost of NPC power had been increasing, even though President Macapagal-Arroyo pegged the PPA at P0.40 per kwh, Francisco said.

Chavit exposé remembered

VIGAN CITY—Opposing groups of Ilocanos here celebrated with a protest rally and thanksgiving mass on Thursday the second anniversary of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's damaging expose that precipitated the downfall of jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada.

More than 300 supporters of Singson led by his brother, Vice Governor Jeremias Singson, attended the pro-Singson program at the provincial capitol.

The governor, however, was reportedly away on a foreign trip.

"It would always be a big event to cherish the heroic act of a leader who is respected by the country because of his bravery and courage," said Councilor Robert Tudayan *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Terminal 3 opening lauded

TWO senior legislators yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo's order for a "soft opening" of the controversial Naia Terminal 3 was a "step in the right direction."

Senate majority leader Loren Legarda-Leviste said Ms Macapagal's order to have the passenger terminal open on Dec. 15 would dispel speculations that the new airport would "turn into a white elephant if the contentious issues surrounding it are not resolved."

"But since both the government and the concessionaire-contractor seem to have agreed to meet halfway through, this concern has somehow been diminished," Legarda said in a statement.

In a statement from Dumaguete City, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel noted that the President showed "political maturity" in ordering the soft opening of the Naia 3.

"In ordering the opening of the new terminal facility, the Chief Executive has redeemed herself, even if fleetingly, from the popular perception that she easily bends to pressure from weighty interest groups," Pimentel said.

He said the opening of the new airport would "spur tourism and ease the lack of local and foreign employment opportunities."

The new terminal's manager, Guillermo Cunanan, said in a press statement yesterday that United States Federal Aviation Authority has agreed to coordinate closely with the terminal's management to ensure the safety and security in the terminal.

Cunanan said that Richard Hyman, the aviation security officer of the US Department of Transportation, had made a commitment of cooperation to ensure passenger and airline security, particularly for US carriers.

The Piatco press release also quoted Hyman as denying that the FAA had conducted an inspection of the new facility. *Rocky Nazareno and Norman Bordadora*

'ROAD TO PERDITION'

P200-M overprice 'easy'

By Rocky Nazareno

THE PRESIDENT Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard (PDMB) could "easily" be overpriced by as much as P200 million.

This was the initial assessment made during yesterday's start of the Senate Blue Ribbon committee probe on the Public Estates Authority (PEA) project in the reclaimed area along Roxas Boulevard.

"(P200 million) is a rough estimate on the basis of the numbers we are seeing," said opposition Sen. John Osmena.

This early, Osmena noted, it was clear that half of the five-kilometer road cost P600 million while the other half cost only P250 million.

The apparent excess is P330 million, he said. Whether or not it was an overprice, he insisted, PEA officials should explain it.

He complained that a presentation made by PEA deputy general manager Manuel Berina was "totally confusing."

PEA officials testified that the original contract price escalated from P584 million to P837 million or an increase of P252.9 million because of "additional" work—a seaside extension road and an inland channel bridge.

Senate Blue Ribbon Committee chair Joker Arroyo said the probers were still in the stage of verifying submitted documents.

He acknowledged that the committee would need "technical expertise" to determine whether or not an overpricing had indeed occurred.

"We haven't reached that point yet. The question is whether those (additions) . . . are justified," Arroyo said.

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta questioned the extra work on what she said was an already overpriced road construction.

"Those jobs should have been anticipated by PEA officials and project contractor JD Legaspi," Oreta said.

Exclusion of the extension road and bridge from the original master plan was "highly suspicious," she said, especially since these upped the project's cost by 21 percent.

In Tacloban City, Senate President Franklin Drilon welcomed the filing of the plunder case against top PEA officials in connection with the controversial coastal road.

"It's about time we took action against these crooks in government," said Drilon, who was in the city yesterday for an anti-drug rally.

Last Thursday, the whistle blower, PEA commissioner Sulfico Tagud, and 15 non-government organizations (NGOs) filed the charges before the Office of the Ombudsman against 16 people, including officials of the PEA and the Commission on Audit, and a private contractor.

Among those charged were PEA chairman Ernest Villareal, general manager Benjamin Carino, Josemari Gerochi, Martin Sanciego, Angelito Villanueva, and Rodolfo Tuazon.

Also charged was Jesusito Legaspi, president of JD Construction. *Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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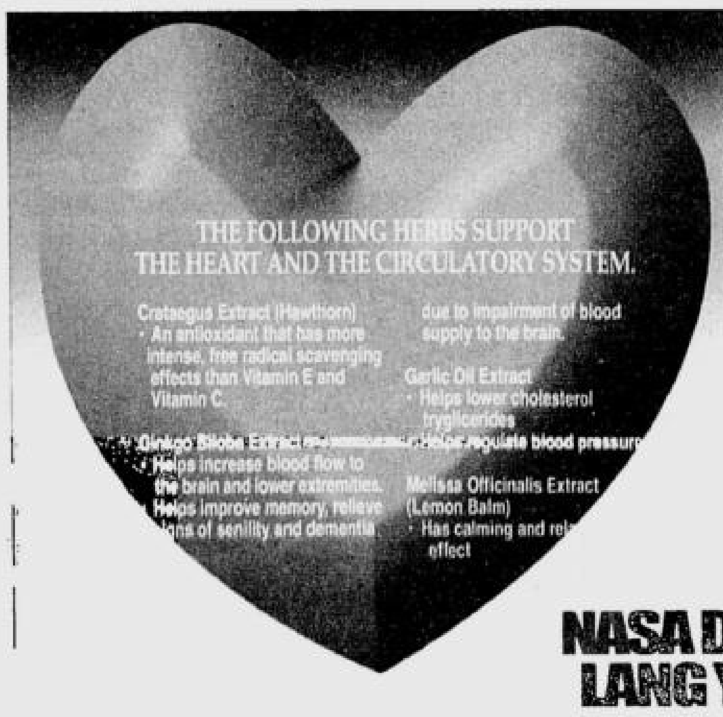
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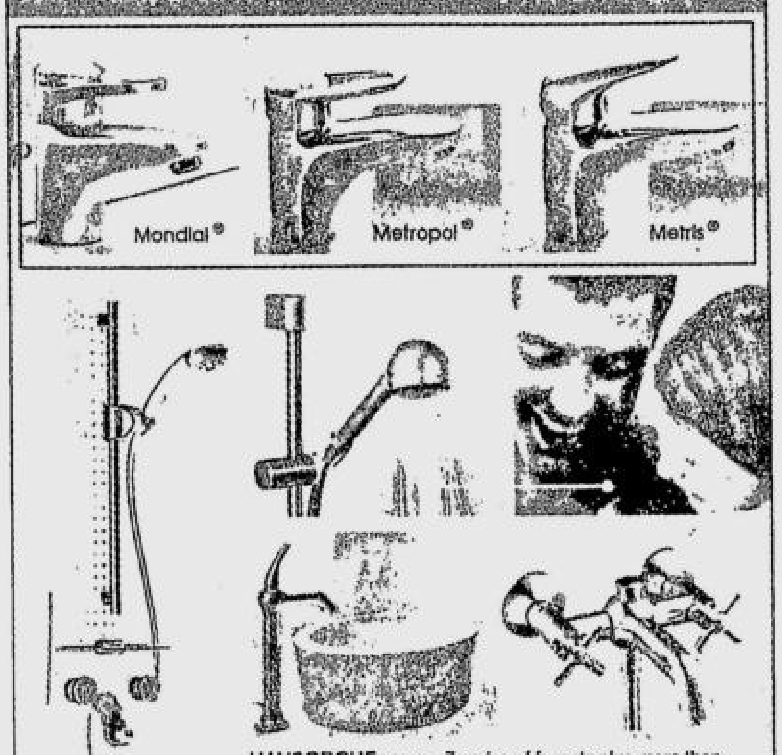

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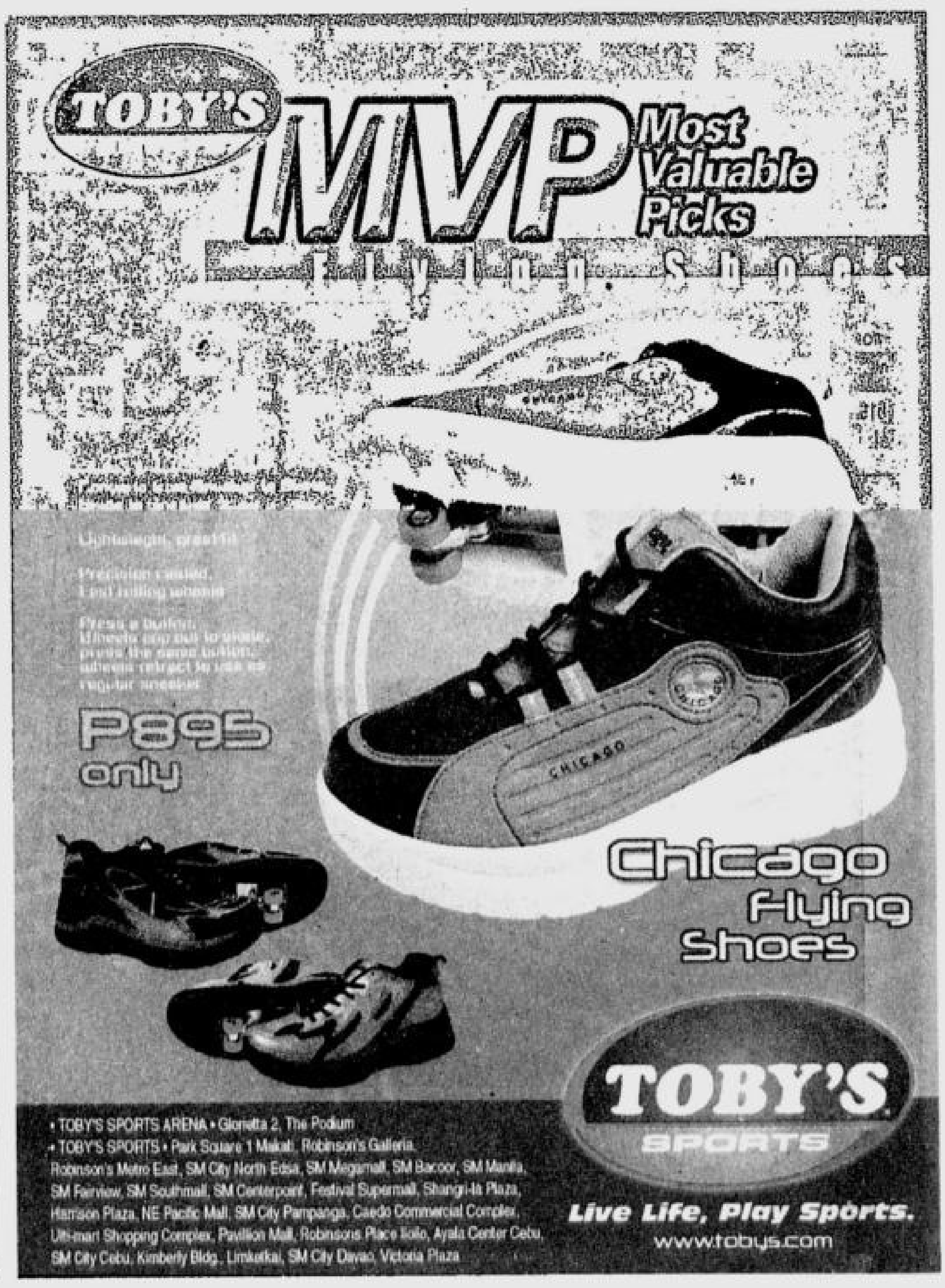

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PLDT: Now it's Cojuangco vs Pangilinan

PANGILINAN

From page A1

executive.

First Pacific's priority is to work out a new alliance with Cojuangco and PLDT's second-biggest shareholder, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. of Japan.

The Salims tried earlier to set up a meeting with Cojuangco to push their deal with the Gokongweis, but Cojuangco was said to have backed out in deference to Pangilinan.

Cojuangco instead urged the Salim family to sell their stake in Indonesian food firm PT Indofoods Sukses Makmur Tbk instead of giving up PLDT.

"Tonyboy does want to take back PLDT because it has many problems. He's willing to lead it again. He thinks he can solve its woes," a source close to Cojuangco said.

People close to Pangilinan, however, dismissed these as "silly rumors."

'Silly story'

"The people spreading these silly rumors are just out to wreak havoc on the company. Most of them are from outside the company, while some of them are hardly involved in PLDT's business," a close Pangilinan aide told the Inquirer.

PLDT vice president for media and communications Menardo Jimenez Jr. said it was "extremely unbelievable" that First Pacific would suddenly find itself sleeping with an enemy.

"It's a silly story," he said.

Cojuangco and Pangilinan are being held responsible for thwarting Gokongwei's attempt to take control of PLDT.

First Pacific announced in June that it would transfer its 24.4-percent controlling stake in PLDT to a $925-million joint venture with the Gokongwei group, which owns a rival telecommunications firm.

The joint venture was also supposed to take on a 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Corp., a property unit of debt-laden Metro Pacific Co. Ltd., the Philippine flagship of First Pacific.

But the transaction failed to take off after the PLDT board, led by Pangilinan with Cojuangco's support, refused to let the Gokongwei group conduct due diligence and effectively blocked the completion of the deal.

On Thursday, it was reported that Pangilinan's and Cojuangco's relationship had been strained by allegations that one was out to dislodge the other from PLDT.

A top-level source said Pangilinan suspected Cojuangco of orchestrating "vicious" media attacks against him through a PLDT consultant close to Cojuangco.

A person familiar with the matter said the Pangilinan-Cojuangco union was tested when Pangilinan opened negotiations with Newbridge Capital Inc. as a potential financial backer for a counter-offer to Gokongwei's takeover bid.

Newbridge was said to be represented by investment adviser Luis Juan "Buboy" Virata, with whom Cojuangco had been having a long-running feud.

Virata said, however, that he was not part of any transactions involving First Pacific's plans to sell its controlling stakes in PLDT and Bonifacio Land.

"I had nothing to do with that deal," he told the Inquirer. "I don't know why people are saying these things. *Masyado nila akong pinabibida* (They are making me a leading player)."

In a statement, Virata clarified that he did not represent Newbridge, but that "it has been our intention to help both Mr. Tonyboy Cojuangco and Mr. Manny Pangilinan, as professional advisers, in both the Fort Bonifacio and PLDT negotiations."

Virata is chair and chief executive of CLSA Exchange Capital Inc., a local partner of French firm Credit Lyonnaise,

"I am not privy to any rift between Mr. Pangilinan and Mr. Cojuangco," Virata said.

He added that he was "not aware that Mr. Cojuangco and I have any problems over purely professional situations."

"There's no 'bad blood' whatsoever between me and Tonyboy," he told the Inquirer.

Cojuangco was said to harbor a grudge against Virata over an investment scam involving Bancapital Development Corp. in 1994.

Bancapital was an unlicensed trader of government securities that closed shop in April 1994 when three of its officers—Marilyn Nite, Nunelon Niguidula-Bradley and Victoria Magalona-Escalambre—disappeared after failing to deliver hundreds of millions of pesos worth of treasury bills they promised to a number of Bancap's clients.

In that scuffle, Virata's company emerged unscathed, while Cojuangco's Bank of Commerce found itself in a serious liquidity crisis.

Cojuangco was also reportedly still miffed at Virata's role in engineering his ouster as chair of Philippine Airlines Inc., which paved the way for beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan's entry into the airline.

He knew he was on dangerous ...

From page A1

Two Filipino civilians were also killed, another US military officer was seriously injured and some two dozen Filipinos were hurt.

Jackson was a squad leader and handpicked 15 men for the Philippine assignment, his father said.

The Green Berets, based across the street from the blast site at Camp Enrile in Malagutay, Zamboanga City, were part of a US contingent of about 260 personnel deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, which has helped train the Philippine military to fight the Muslim guerrillas.

Al-Qaida link

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, the Philippine National Police chief, blamed Wednesday's attack on the Abu Sayyaf, a group that is known for kidnappings and beheadings and has been linked to al-Qaida.

The rider of a motorcycle in which the bomb was stashed was identified as an Abu Sayyaf member from a sketch based on witness accounts, Ebdane said. There were conflicting reports whether the man was among the dead.

"A motor scooter pulled up with a bomb on it. Mark was just outside the protected area," William Jackson said military officials told him when they broke the news Wednesday afternoon.

Gen. Benjamin Defensor, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, vowed to go after the Abu Sayyaf, which both US and Philippine officials said three months ago had been virtually wiped out during an American-backed military offensive involving thousands of crack Philippine troops.

Mark Jackson was born in Saginaw and graduated from Swan Valley High School, where he played football and wrestled.

Surrounded by the best

He joined the military and moved from the 82nd Airborne to the Rangers and finally the Green Berets. If he was going to be in the military business "he wanted to be surrounded by the best," his father said.

William Jackson said his son was an avid sportsman who loved his parents' retirement home in Glennie, about 97 km north of Bay City, where thousands of summer tourists flock to the little Alcona County town blessed with trout streams, lakes and wooded countryside.

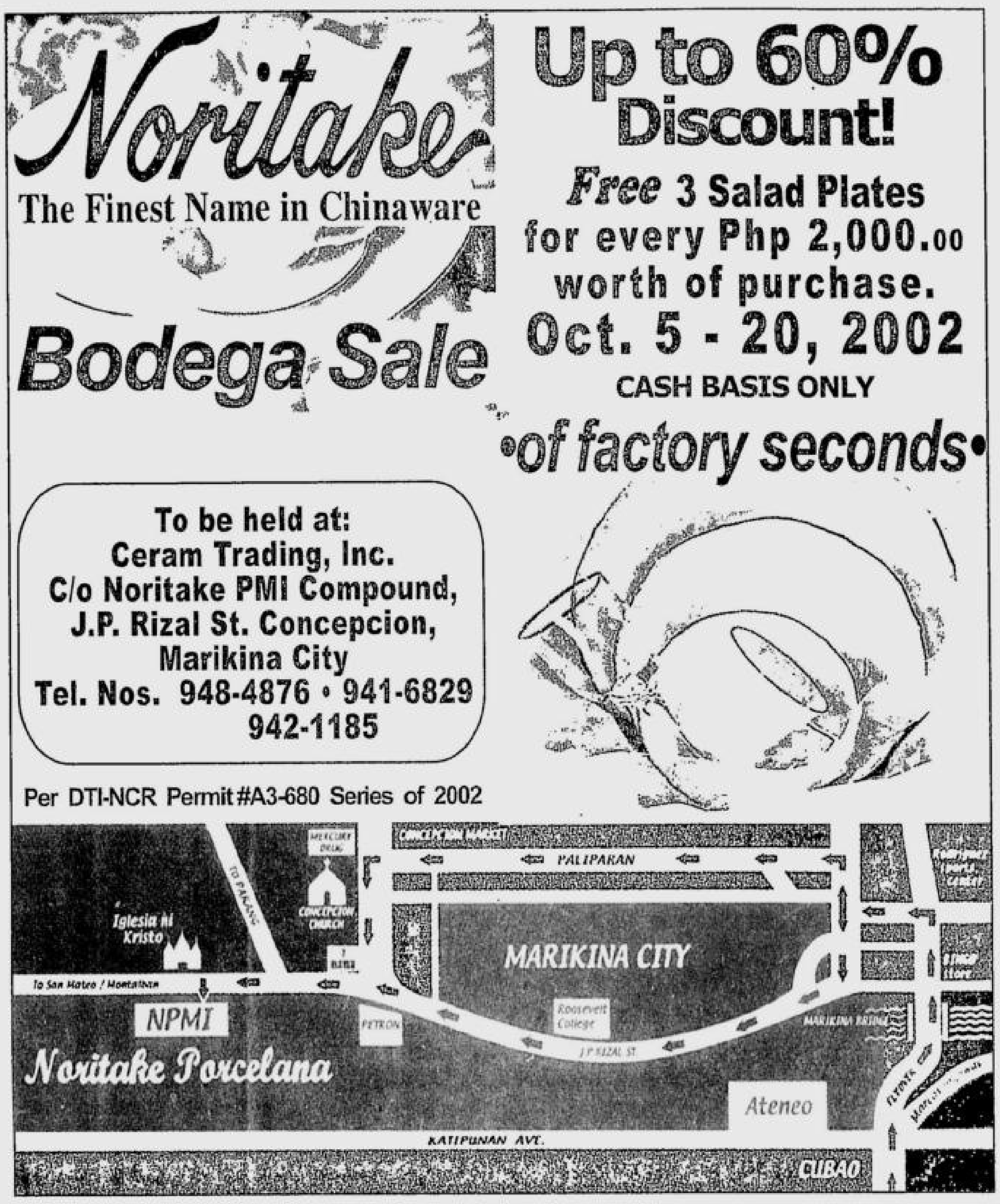
"I couldn't ask for a better son," he said.

On Tuesday, William and Richard Jackson crept into the woods to hunt deer on opening day of bow season, a trip William and Mark had made on many other occasions.

On this day, his son was half a world away.

"He was a great kid," William Jackson said. "He was going to retire in three years. Now I would like to have him buried here in the local cemetery."

AP



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Be it known therefore that:

1. Good Harvest Orchards Marketing Corporation is a legitimate business duly registered with the SEC, DTI and the City where it transacts and undertakes its main business activities.
2. The Company is engaged in the richly rewarding business of mango farming. It also believes in the National Government's battle cry to "GO AGRICULTURE" as a sound and fundamental solution in solving the nation's economic woes.
3. Good Harvest Orchards Marketing Corporation's pilot orchard is situated in Morong, Bataan. The land where it is planting its mango trees is **neither within the Bataan Natural Park nor a part of the Military Reservation Area**. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region III Office certifies and classifies the land of Good Harvest as **Alienable and Disposable** (as it has been all along). The certification was issued on September 30, 2002 and signed by Mr. Marcial Lapuz, Chief-Engineering.
4. Our business plan includes opening up other mango orchards in other parts of the country. This is in line with its goal to have about 300,000 mango trees in four (4) to five (5) years time. To support the business plan, the company will utilize its land bank and plans to acquire more suitable land for its program.
5. The company's unique style of **cooperative marketing plan** enables small investors to partake (for the first time) in the highly profitable and rewarding business of orchard ownership and mango contract farming.

It is therefore unfortunate that there are some self-serving and ill-motivated petty municipal officers that prefer to undermine this noble endeavor and the national government's initiative in agriculture, **to the detriment of their impoverished constituents.**

Good Harvest Orchards Marketing Corporation commits itself to be relentless in carrying out its **mission** that of providing everyone the opportunity of a bountiful harvest through mango farming and in making Philippine mangoes, the queen of all mangoes well-known and identified with our country (just like Kiwi is to New Zealand).

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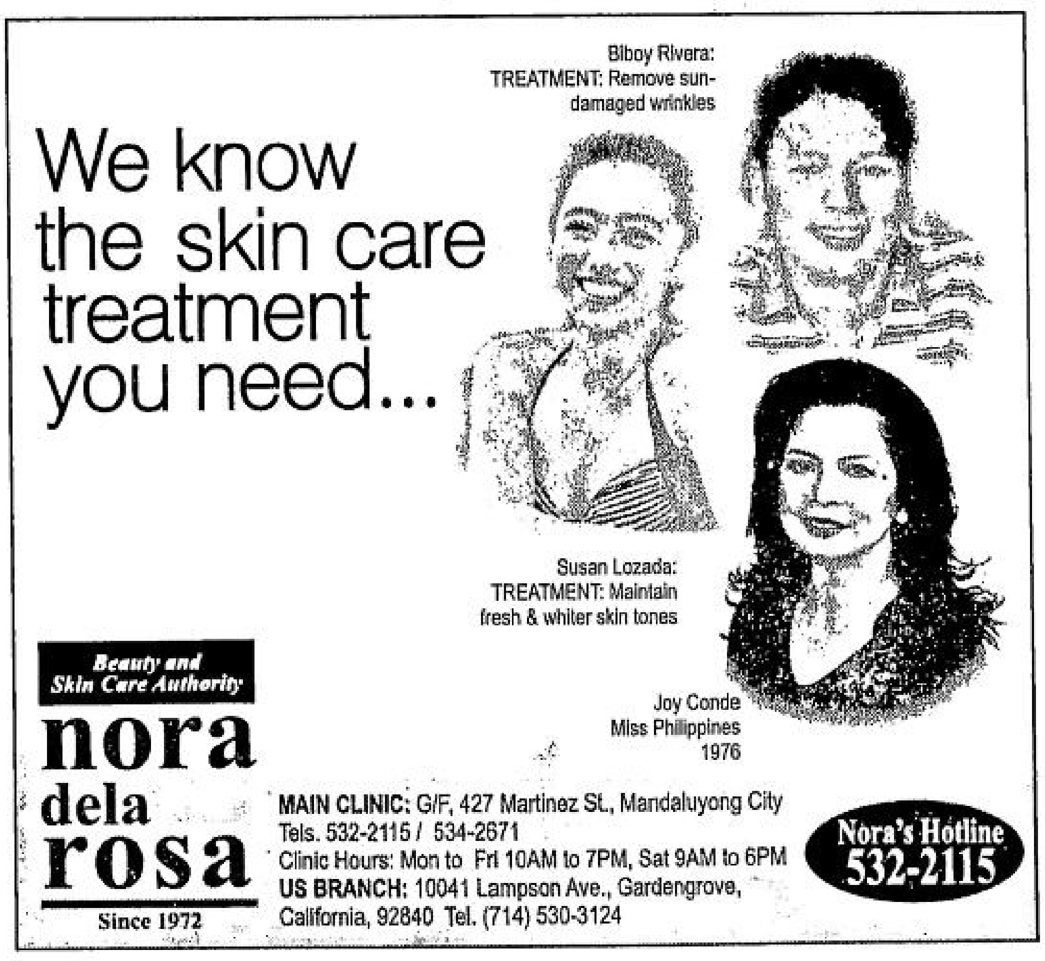
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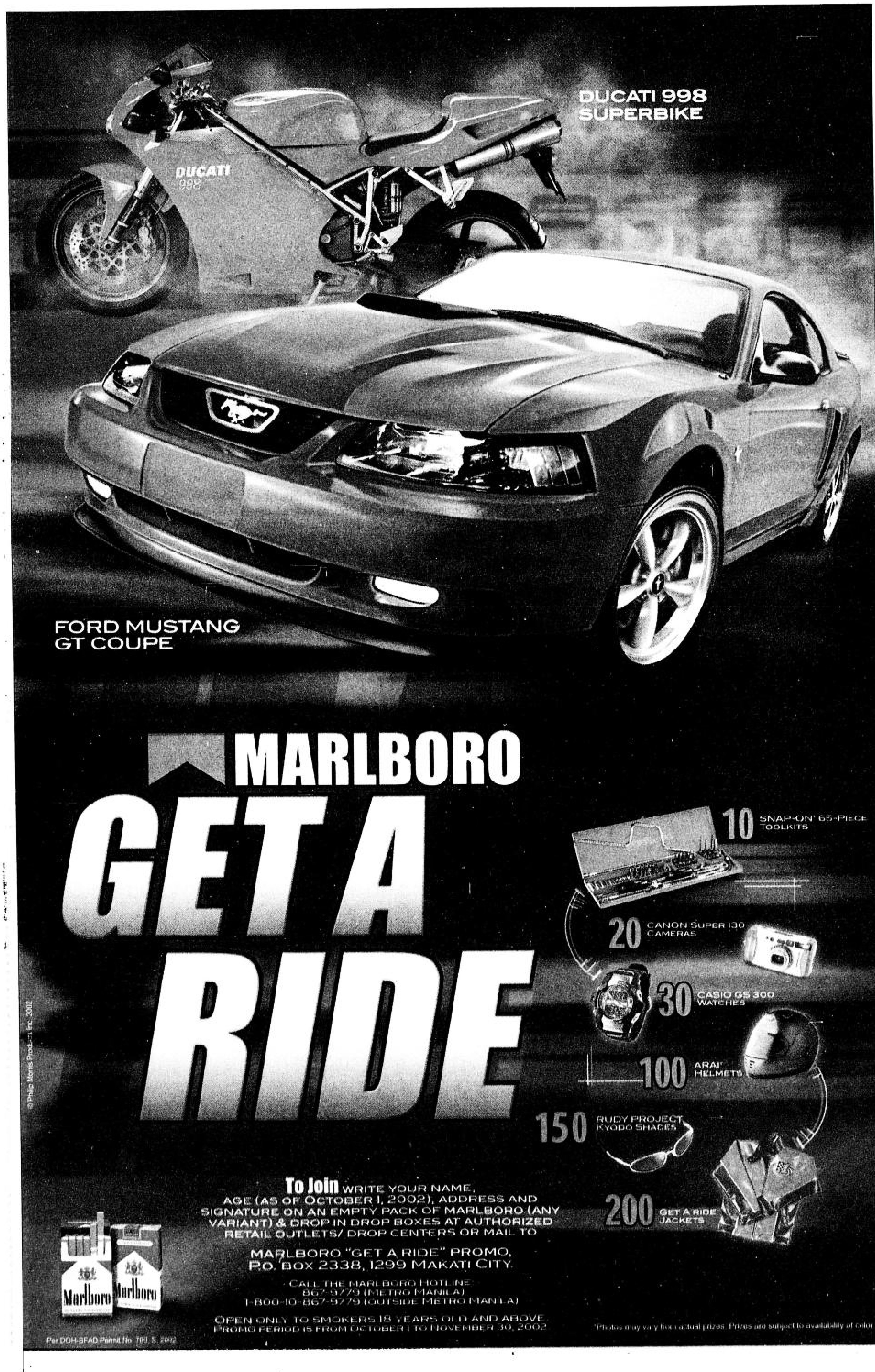
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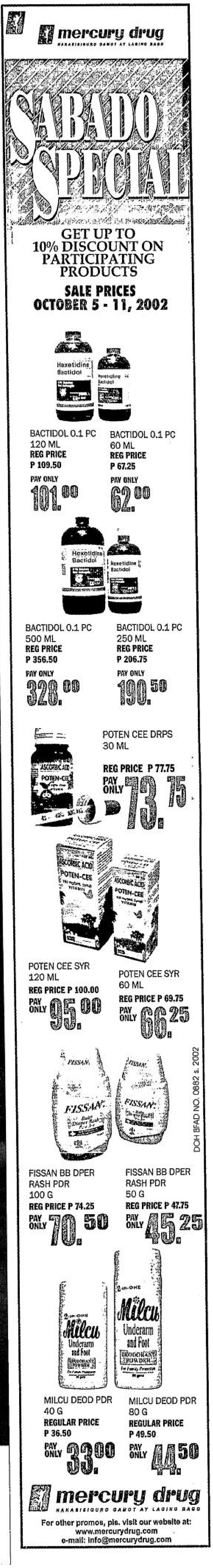
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NPA rebels strike again, kill militiaman in Quezon

By Delfin T. Mallari
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—A week after communist New People's Army guerrillas assaulted a police station in Lopez, Quezon, the insurgents struck again, attacking a military patrol base in the Bondoc Peninsula very early yesterday, and killing one paramilitary member of the Civilian Auxiliary Force Geographical Unit.

Four Cafgu members and an Army sergeant were wounded in the 3 a.m. attack on the troops who were guarding a road project of the South Korean-based Keang Nam Construction Co. at sitio Pantay, barangay Abuyon in San Narciso town in Quezon.

Southern Command spokesperson Maj. Jose Broso insisted, however, that the firefight was not an NPA attack but an encounter, which he said was an offshoot of the intensified military campaign against the communist rebels.

The NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has been stepping up its offensive against government targets and vital infrastructure after the United States government placed the group on its list of foreign terrorist organizations.

A report to Camp Aguinaldo said the slain Cafgu member was Ely Malana while the wounded were identified as Leovino Badilla, Renato Labores, Delfin Questo and Sgt. Domingo Diaz.

A fifth trooper, Sgt. Winnie Almirante, was wounded when troop reinforcements clashed with an NPA blocking force.

The report also said the firefight lasted for about an hour and resulted in the burning of the patrol's bunk house and an M-14 rifle.

Quezon police said the attackers wanted to burn down the Korean firm's construction equipment but the soldiers pushed back the rebels who fled under cover of darkness. A joint police and military team went in pursuit of the attackers.

There was no report of casualties on the rebel side.

Capt. Ramon Rosario, deputy chief of the AFP Civil Relations Group for Southern Luzon based at Camp Nakar here, said there were four soldiers and eight Cafgu members in the patrol team guarding the construction project.

Keang Nam had won the contract to build the P439-million concrete road between San Narciso and Mulanay towns on the Ragay Gulf region. The highway is said to be almost finished.

Several military choppers immediately took off from Camp Nakar in the direction of San Narciso, which is six to seven hours land travel from this city.

Solcom officers have been tight-lipped about the incident but this reporter overheard a junior officer saying that the detachment had been overrun and its bunkers destroyed and burned by the rebels.

In October 1999, the NPA also raided Keang Nam's old construction base in the coastal town of Mulanay.

The rebels burned heavy construction equipment when the company reportedly refused to pay revolutionary taxes.

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, the CPP spokesperson, said he only learned of the attack from a radio report.

"If the camp had been overrun, most probably all government weapons were carted away by the raiders," he said.

"Nevertheless, the Party and the entire revolutionary movement extend our congratulations to all the members of the NPA assault team," Rosal said.

Asked if the attack was part of the NPA response to the government's "all-out war" on the rebels, Rosal replied, "definitely yes."

"Or probably, the attack could just be an ordinary tactical offensive by the NPA freedom fighters operating in the area. We can't afford to just keep idle and merely receive the brunt of military's all-out war offensives. We also have to strike," he said.

He said most NPA units had been dormant in the past months because they were undergoing a rigid military training in preparation for the launching of more tactical offensives.

But now it would appear most of them were ready and launching their own offensives, Rosal said. *With a report from Martin P. Marfil*

Sega sued after firing 12 RP workers

LOS ANGELES—The US arm of Japanese game publisher Sega Corp. faces a lawsuit from US labor regulators over allegations that it fired 12 game testers because they were Filipino, officials said on Thursday.

Spherion Corp.—a Fort Lauderdale, Florida-based staffing company, which provided the workers to test games for Sega in San Francisco—was also named in the complaint by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

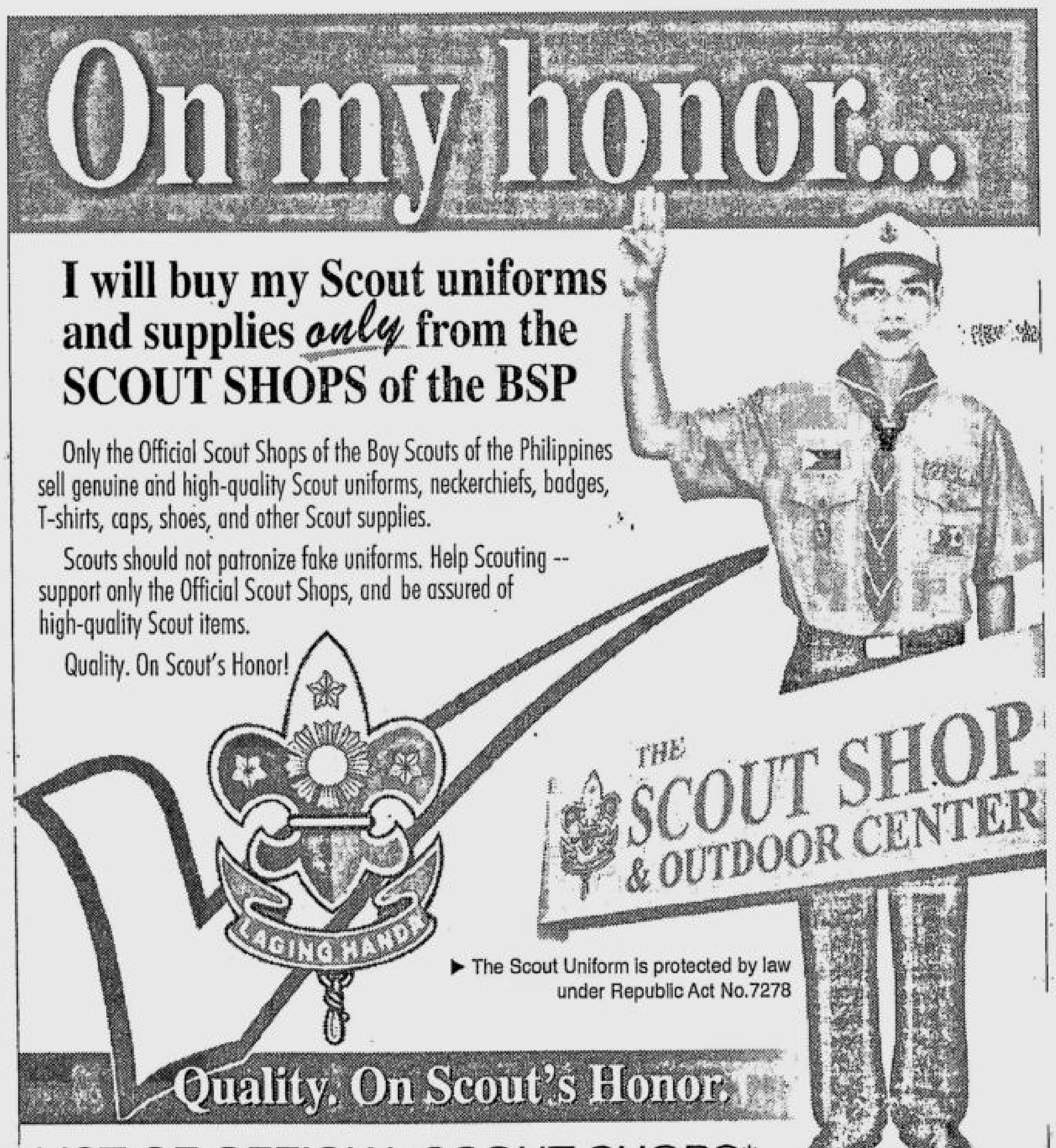
The commission filed suit after attempts to reach a settlement failed, EEOC trial attorney Cindy O'Hara said.

After an employee complained to Sega management that Filipino testers were getting preferential treatment, Sega fired him, four of his friends, and 12 testers, O'Hara said.

In a statement, the EEOC said Spherion knew why the workers had been fired but "did not raise a word of protest." The suit, filed in federal court in northern California, seeks punitive and compensatory damages, lost wages for the fired employees and injunctions against Sega and Spherion preventing similar behavior in the future.

Sega said in a statement it is an equal-opportunity employer and "will vigorously defend itself against the complaints made by the EEOC." Spherion said it has not been served with a copy of the suit but is familiar with the allegations.

"Based on the information we have at this point, Spherion will vigorously defend its position that the charges filed by the EEOC are baseless and without merit," the company said in a statement. *Reuters*



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INQUIRER President and CEO Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez and GMA 7 Chairman and President Atty. Felipe Gozon shake hands and agreed to work together in promoting the first INQUIRER Seminar Series. The INQUIRER Seminar Series is in cooperation with the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations clubs of the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and University of Asia and the Pacific. The seminar aims to provide young Filipinos with a forum to discuss issues and internalize them to bring about personal transformation. It is one of five components of the INQUIRER's Youth Readership Program and will be held on Oct. 12, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the University of Asia and the Pacific, Pasig City. Witnessing the signing of the memorandum of agreement are INQUIRER Corporate Relations Manager Celine Madamba and GMA 7 Vice President for Corporate Affairs Carmencita Arce.

Stop using Styrofoam, fast food restos urged

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

BURGERS, fried chicken, and Chinese dishes from fast-food restaurants may be "finger-lickin' good," but the same cannot be said of their plastic or styro packaging.

Religious and environment groups yesterday exhorted the public to stop patronizing Jollibee and McDonald's, and other fast-food chains that use disposable plastic and Styrofoam.

During the launch of the nationwide campaign, the coalition led by the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP), also started a text-message drive in a bid to get their appeal all the way to the President and the environment office.

Yesterday was the feast day of St. Francis de Assissi, patron saint of ecology.

"Mas at-home kaming kumain kung hindi sa plastic at Styrofoam ihahain (We feel more comfortable eating food that's not served in plastics and Styrofoam)," was among the messages that the participating groups would be sending to President Macapagal-Arroyo's mobile phone.

The coalition said plastic and Styrofoam packaging produced dioxins that caused a wide range of illnesses, including male and female reproductive problems, diabetes, and hormonal disorders.

In a press statement, AMRSP said the two giant fast-food chains McDonald's and Jollibee, with some 220 outlets between them, were among the firms that produced "the most sizable amount of garbage" in the country.

The church leaders said the Jollibee management had ignored previous warnings, claiming there hadn't been any "documented deaths" blamed on Styrofoam use.

This showed that the fast-food chain had "no sense of social responsibility," AMRSP said.

It then exhorted the public to "seriously consider the possibility of not patronizing these fast-food stores if they continue to renege on their social responsibility of protecting the environment and people's health."

"Fastfood is convenient, but it will give us more inconvenience in the end," said Francis dela Cruz of Greenpeace-Southeast Asia.

Dioxins, classified as carcinogens by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, are released into the air when chlorine-containing plastics and styro materials disposed by fast-food outlets are burned, Dela Cruz explained.

The coalition noted that Metro Manila alone produces 6,000 metric tons of wastes daily. If left unchecked, the group warned, this could result in an "environmental menace." It then appealed to the public to "refrain altogether" from using disposable plastics and Styrofoam.

AMRSP's Fr. Ben Moraleda appealed to school canteens nationwide to join the campaign.

Other members of the coalition are Kaalagad Katipunang Kristiyano, Franciscan Movement for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, Franciscan Youth, and the Secular Franciscan Order. *With Armand N. Nocum*

NBI nabs Filipino member of Internet child pornography ring

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation and customs agents arrested last week a Filipino member of an Internet child pornography ring who earned millions of dollars selling nude pictures of minors.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco identified the suspect as Benjamin Garcia, also know as Andrew Francisco, of 1775-D Adriatico St., Malate, Manila.

"The suspect is very popular among pedophile e-groups having posted sample images of child pornography that he claims he has in possession," Wycoco said.

Garcia was arrested after eluding investigators for three years and earning millions of US and Euro dollars during that time, he said.

During the last four weeks before his arrest, Garcia allegedly increased his online activities and dealt with people from 14 other countries, Wycoco added.

"It is paramount to our mission to give priority in protecting our children from any form of victimization, much more in situations where the children are repeatedly victimized every time their pictures appear from one publication to another," Wycoco said.

"Pornography is a billion dollar industry and child pornography has leapt in bounds and has become a major concern around the world. We are committed to the protection of the children not only for our children but for the children of the world," he added.

Wycoco said Garcia sold child porn through the Internet and postal operations.

When a customer agrees to buy the pictures after online negotiatios, he sends Garcia his payment, through money transfer.

Upon receipt of payment, the suspect then sends the child porn to the customer.

Wycoco said the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime received initial reports about Garcia's activities in June 1999.

The authorities raided the suspect's apartment last week and confiscated several CDs, diskettes, ad publications of "various sexual preferences with concentration on man to man activities."

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The INQUIRER cannot guarantee the publication of press releases. It is also our policy not to accept gifts, goods or services in exchange for the publication of press releases.

Beginning Oct. 16, our fax numbers at the editorial will be used exclusively by the editorial staff in the field.

Big 3 petroleum firms, new oil players hike pump prices

THE PHILIPPINES three major oil refiners have announced fresh hikes in pump prices in response to the sharp spike in global crude oil costs.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., set the ball rolling on Thursday, raising most fuel product prices by 50 centavos per liter, while increasing diesel by 30 centavos.

Caltex (Philippines) Inc., a unit of Chevron Texaco , and the country's largest refiner, Petron Corp., followed suit on Friday announcing identical price hikes, effective from midnight on Friday.

The new entrants TotalFinaElf Petroleum and Eastern Petroleum also followed the lead of industry leaders, increasing the prices of gasoline and kerosene by 50 centavos per liter and of diesel by 30 centavos.

Caltex's increases took effect at midnight last night and those of Total and Eastern at 6 a.m. yesterday.

Pilipinas Shell is part of the Royal Dutch/Shell group, while Petron's major shareholders are the Philippine government and Saudi Aramco.

It is the second round of increases by the major oil firms in a month.

Eastern Petroleum chair Fernando Martinez said the company was increasing its diesel prices by 35 centavos per liter which he said reflected the cost of procuring the fuel.

Two other new industry players, Seaoil Petroleum Corp. and Flying V, said they would be announcing price increases this weekend.

Caltex said it was raising prices in response to the continued pressure on regional markets by rising global costs and difficult market conditions.

"International prices have continued to go up in light of numerous factors affecting supply and demand such as the ongoing Middle East tension and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' decision not to increase production levels," it said in a statement.

As a result, it said reference crude and finished product prices went up by roughly $1.60 to $2.60 per barrel from August to September.

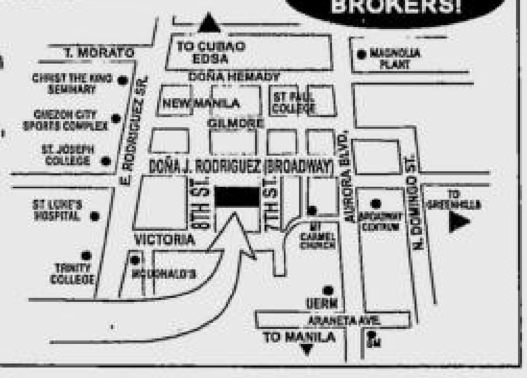
"The latest spot price of diesel alone is nearly $4, or 14 percent higher than August levels," Caltex said.

Petron echoed that in its own news release.

Total corporate affairs manager Rona Quejada said that based on the Mean of Platts Singapore—or Mops, an index of refined product prices—the average price of unleaded gasoline rose by $2.33 per barrel from $28.15 in August to $30.48 in September.

Average Dubai crude prices increased by $1.56 per barrel from $25.24 in August to $26.80 in September.

The peso depreciated by 34 centavos against the dollar from P51.82 in August to P52.16 last month. *Ronnel Domingo with Reuters report*



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NEWSBRIEFS

Sex cult leader nabbed

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has arrested the head of a Negros Occidental cult that advocated "free sex" and even tried to recruit senators by sending to the Senate pictures of young men and women in various sex acts.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said his men nabbed Leonardo Erobas, head of the "Espedeject Ideology: Global One Man Rule Program" on Thursday in Bacolod City.

The suspect was arrested in the compound of a television network, where he was supposed to be interviewed.

Wycoco said the authorities nabbed Erobas on the complaint of three girls, two of them 14-year-olds and the other 16.

Philip Tubeza

Palace denies Chavit item

MALACAÑANG yesterday denied a supposed plan to tap former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson to head an agency to manage the multibillion-peso tobacco excise tax.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye made the clarification in response to a reported uproar by members of the so-called Northern Alliance bloc in the House over the purported appointment of Singson.

"As of now that (Singson's appointment) is only an allegation," Bunye said. "I don't think there is any basis for that report."

The alliance is composed of congressmen from the Ilocos region, Cagayan Valley and Cordillera that produce tobacco.

Carlito Pablo

Wife-beating Korean held

THE BUREAU of Immigration arrested yesterday a Korean who allegedly beat up his Filipino wife and father-in-law in Bacolod City.

Dong Moon Bae, 42, was also found to be an overstaying alien. He should have left the country on Aug. 19 based on the validity of his passport, according to the BI.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said Bae's wife Isabela Olito Bae and father-in-law Jose Olito had even submitted medical certificates to prove that they suffered injuries due to Bae's maltreatment.

Bae was briefly detained at the Bacolod City police station after his wife reported to police the alleged domestic violence committed by Bae on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1.

Blanche Rivera

Israeli plan worries RP

THE COUNTRY would lose $500 million in remittances every year if the Israeli government pushes through with its plan to bar foreign workers.

Ramon Estrella, president of the United Philippines Manpower Agencies for Israel Association Inc., said that the ban would also dampen the government's efforts to deploy one million Filipino workers this year.

"I'm really very sad because Israel is a good market for OFWs (Overseas Filipino Workers)," Estrella told reporters in an interview.

He said there were no complaints of maltreatment against Israeli employers, unlike other foreign hosts.

Blanche Rivera

No jurisdiction

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday dismissed for lack of jurisdiction a libel case against Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez which stemmed from his incendiary remarks on radio against a local official in August 2000.

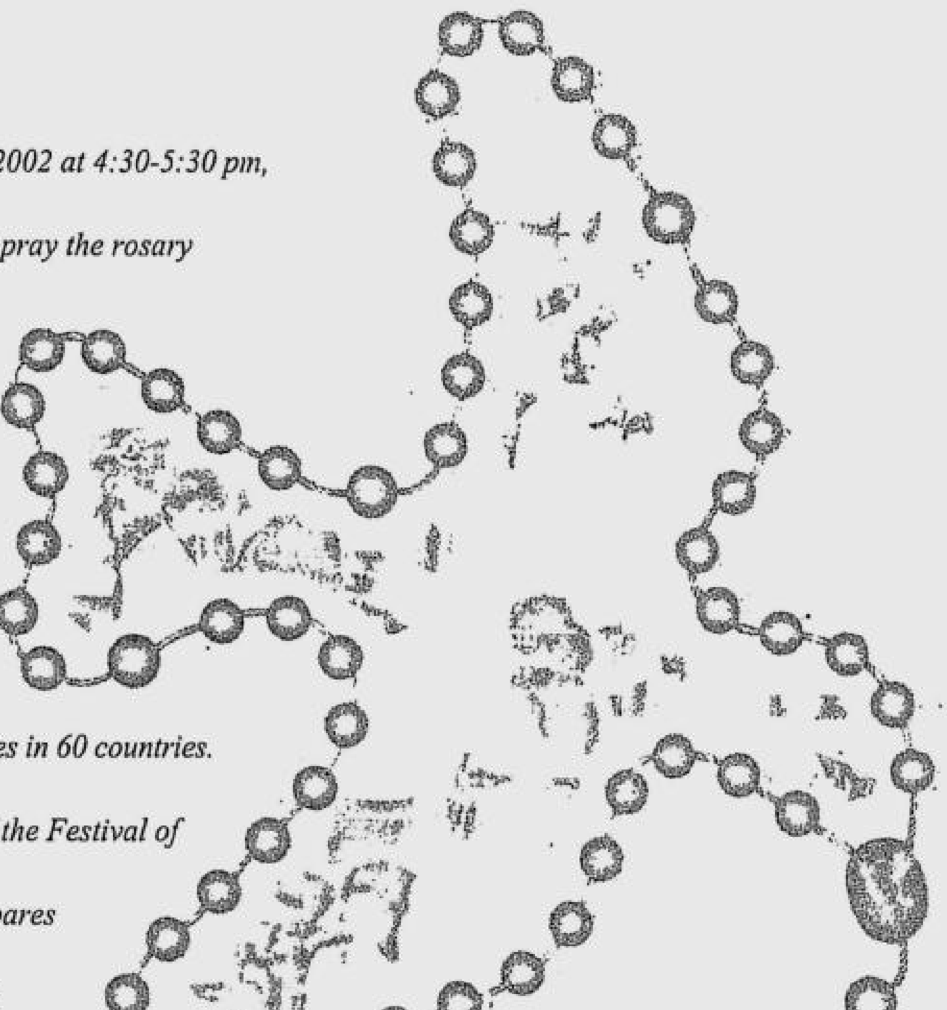
The dismissal came a day after the 65-year-old brother of former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos reassumed his post following a five-month medical leave.

The anti-graft court's 4th Division junked the case initiated by Victor Domingo, then Romualdez's co-chair in the Regional Development Council, over a Radio Bombo interview the mayor gave on Aug. 29, 2000.

The charge quoted Romualdez as having publicly ridiculed Victorino in Waray describing the complainant as "a problem person, a liar, drug addict, a silly, crazy, no good person."

Associate Justice Rodolfo Palattao said the remarks weren't proven to be "intimately related to (Romualdez's) discharge of his official duties as City Mayor."

The charge, therefore, still falls within the jurisdiction of the regional trial court and not the Sandiganbayan which only hears cases involving offenses committed by government personnel in the course of their official functions.



The Children's Rosary Rally for Family Unity

Today, October 5, 2002 at 4:30-5:30 pm,
children will simultaneously pray the rosary
for peace in our home and the
whole world. They will be joined
nationwide by the bishops, priests,
teachers and parents in their
parishes; together with the
overseas Filipino families in 60 countries.
As a culminating activity of the Festival of
Children, this Rosary Rally prepares
us for the 4th World Meeting of
Families in 2003 and gives us the
chance to pray for worldwide family unity.

"The family that prays together stays together."

The Children's Rosary Rally at Villa San Miguel will be aired on ABS-CBN ANC Channel 21 from 4:30-5:00 pm to be followed by a nationwide video presentation from 5:00-6:00 pm.

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Phony war theater

EDITORIAL

MILITARY authorities have blamed the Abu Sayyaf for the explosion that killed two Filipino civilians and an American soldier in Zamboanga City last Wednesday. The blast was the most audacious action so far attributed to the Abu Sayyaf after its flamboyant spokesperson, Abu Sabaya, was reported killed by special forces last June in a fight off the coast of Zamboanga del Norte. The bombing followed a call by Abu Sayyaf leader, Khadaffy Janjalani, on "all believers in the oneness of Allah" to attack both foreign and domestic enemies of Islam and their property.

Stratfor, a US-based think tank, interpreted the attack as a signal that the new Abu Sayyaf leadership is redefining the group into a militant Islamic organization instead of engaging in kidnap-for-ransom activities. The strike could also signal further attacks on military targets and US troops taking part in joint military exercises with Filipino troops, as part of the Abu Sayyaf's efforts to reinvent itself as the core of Islamic fundamentalism in the country, it said.

After the joint RP-US exercises earlier this year which were focused on crushing the Abu Sayyaf, a larger US military presence is expected from expanded military exercises that will highlight the US government's formation of a "second front" in the war on terrorism.

The commitment of the Macapagal administration to back the US-led war on terrorism has led to the linkage of the Philippines to this front, which would warrant the enlargement of US military presence in this country. US intelligence officials have claimed that Southeast Asia has the largest concentration of al-Qaida operatives outside of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

But even if this analysis were correct, opening a second front in Asia seems superfluous. Making Asia a "second front" in the war on terrorism suffers from inconsistency. While US military intelligence has uncovered a web of linkages among Islamic militants in the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, the United States has not described Europe as a new front even though a number of people linked to al-Qaida have been arrested in Spain and Germany after they were implicated in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. What then are the special reasons why there must be a "second front" in Asia, when this region is only peripheral to the current main focus of the US preoccupation with terrorism which is Iraq?

The opening of the second front in Asia appears to be part of a strategy to give the war on terrorism an international character by linking Southeast Asia to a chain of actions, even though the main target is Iraq.

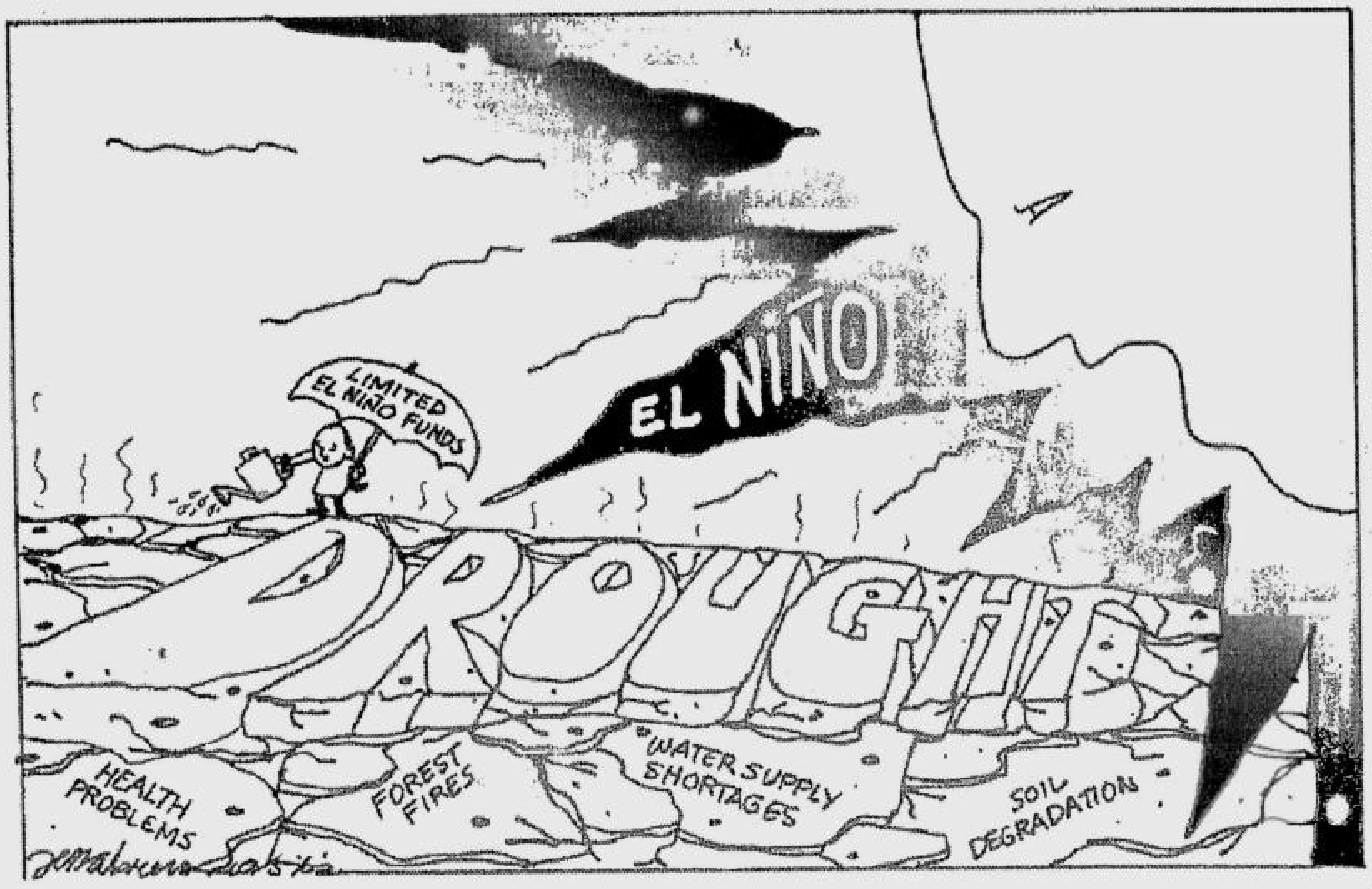
The United States has more reason to present a façade of international support in its war against terrorism in the face of the resistance to its combative stance to attack Iraq in a preemptive strike, on the grounds that it poses a danger because of Saddam Hussein's arsenal of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

China, France and Russia are resisting US diplomatic efforts to make the United Nations Security Council issue a tougher resolution on UN-supervised arms inspection of the Iraqi weapons facilities. The resolution it wants would justify military action on Iraq if it frustrates effective inspection.

But the Chinese, Russians and French—three of the five permanent Security Council members with veto power—would like to give a chance to the option of the return of the UN inspectors to Iraq. Negotiations are under way in Vienna between the UN inspection team and the Iraqi government on how far the inspectors can investigate, and even with this, the United States insists that the Security Council pass a tough resolution setting conditions for inspection to include the residence of Saddam.

The United States has failed to show any credible evidence linking Iraq to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but this has not stopped President George W. Bush from extending his campaign on terrorism. The rationale for war is that the United States and its allies should strike first before Saddam unleashes his weapons.

With this focus on Iraq, it is not clear what purpose opening a "second front" in Asia would serve. Southeast Asian leaders are not being consulted about the war moves on Iraq. True, they have their own problems with Islamic militants, but Iraq has nothing to do with this militancy in Southeast Asia. This front is nothing more than a phony war theater.



No cop-out this time

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I HAVE read the extra-thick decision of the Supreme Court in the Mark Jimenez extradition case, including the concurring and dissenting opinions, and will say that, in my humble view, the majority is right. I especially agree with the ruling that the right to bail as guaranteed in Sec. 13 of the Bill of Rights is not applicable to extradition proceedings where such right is not specifically granted.

There is no need for me to report in detail reasons for the *ponencia* of Justice Artemio V. Panganiban because they have already been extensively discussed in this paper and by other columnists elsewhere. But I will remark on the claim of some rabid supporters of Jimenez that the extradition treaty under which he is sought to be arrested violates and must yield to the guaranties of the Bill of Rights.

In so arguing, the critics of the decision are begging the question. They are taking for granted a conflict between our Constitution and the extradition treaty when in fact and in law there is none or at least has yet to be established. That supposition is subject to objection for lack of basis, as many lawyers know. Yet it is on that mistaken and unproved assumption that Jimenez and his posse of would-be impeachers claim a violation of the Constitution by the treaty.

In Ichong v. Hernandez, 101 Phil. 1155, the petitioners challenged the constitutionality of the Retail Trade Nationalization Law on the ground that it violated certain treaty commitments of the Philippines. The Supreme Court dismissed their argument and said it saw no conflict. Incidentally, extradition treaties in so far as they embody generally accepted principles of international law are regarded by Art. II, Sec. 2 of our Constitution as "part of the law of the land." This principle was applied in Kuroda v. Jalandoni, 42 OG 4282, and other cases.

What I especially appreciated about the decision was the resolution of the majority to decide the petition directly instead of remanding it to the extradition court as suggested by three of the dissenting justices. Justice Panganiban dismissed that suggestion as follows:

"A remand would mean that the long and tedious process would be repeated in its entirety. The trial court would again hear factual and evidentiary matters. Be it noted, however, that in all his voluminous pleadings and verbal propositions, private respondent has not asked for a remand. Evidently, even he realizes that there is absolutely no need to rehear factual matters. Indeed, the inadequacy lies not in the *factual* presentation of Mr. Jimenez. Rather, it lies in his *legal* arguments. Remanding the case will not solve this utter lack or persuasion and strength in his legal reasoning."

The extradition case against Jimenez was filed by the Department of Justice on March 18, 2001, but after more than a year, RTC Judge Guillermo R. Purganan has yet to reach his decision. The certiorari proceedings before the Supreme Court did not bar him from continuing the trial and deciding whether Jimenez was extraditable or not. Remanding the case to the trial court would further delay its resolution, possibly for more years, considering the dilatory tactics available and resorted to by many lawyers.

The Jimenez case brings to mind the case of Guazon v. De Villa, 181 SCRA 623, where the petitioners challenged the "areal saturation drives" that roused the residents in depressed communities, ordered them to line up, and arbitrarily arrested the persons pointed to by a hooded figure as fugitive or suspected criminals. This was the dreaded "zona" of the Japanese occupation. The complained acts were widely covered by the media, but the Supreme Court remanded the case to several regional trial courts to verify the factual allegations. The 12 raids were allegedly committed in 1987 but, as far as I know, the assigned courts never filed their reports, at least not up to 1994, when I retired from the Court. The case has probably been archived.

There are none so blind as those who will not see. Three of us dissented, with Justice Abraham F. Sarmiento complaining that the remand of the petition to the lower courts was "an abdication of judicial duty."

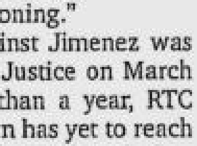
A fairly recent case was the petition filed directly with the Supreme Court against the paint-spraying by Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim of the houses of known or suspected drug traffickers. Although the question raised was purely legal (as Lim did not deny the challenged act), the Supreme Court remanded the case to a Pasig RTC, whose decision dismissing it was reversed by the Court of Appeals. The case was elevated to the Supreme Court, which could have ruled squarely on the important constitutional issues raised. It copped-out instead and dismissed the appeal for "technical reasons."

I have my misgivings about the Jimenez decision but not about its correctness. The voting on the case was 8-6, with the majority prevailing by only one vote over the six other justices in the 14-member Supreme Court. A switch by only one member from the majority will result in a 7-7 tie and the dismissal of the petition. Jimenez will then remain free on bail, and his hatchet men in the House of Representatives will not have to impeach the rascals in the Supreme Court.

Betrayal

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



REMEMBER that Malaysian judge who recently ruled that an inmate who had sex with her policeman jailer in her cell was not raped? It was voluntary, he said, consensual.

How did he come to this decision? Because, the judge said, the prisoner voluntarily took off her dress and opened her legs for the policeman (the whole act was apparently recorded by security cameras), so there was no use of force. Never mind that the policeman was her jailer, never mind that he had power of life or death over her, never mind that he was armed.

Well, when Juan Ponce Enrile made those remarks about Eugenio Lopez Sr. voluntarily transferring ownership of the Lopez holdings to the Marcoses (through Kokoy Romualdez), his logic and that of the Malaysian judge were strikingly similar. Lopez really wanted to sell, says Enrile, because Meralco was in deep financial trouble anyway. It could not pay its creditors, so Lopez practically begged the Marcoses to take the corporation off his hands.

Never mind that Meralco could not pay its creditors because the martial law government made certain it would not be able to do so: the good old squeeze play on Meralco's rate increase, and then matters were arranged (with the active participation of the Central Bank) so that it could not get any guarantees or additional credit. Never mind that the government decreed that transmission and generation, which Meralco was also engaged in, would now be a government monopoly. And never mind that the government wielded the biggest stick it could to ensure Lopez's "voluntary" sale: it had put his eldest son Geny in jail (no charges) and his release was supposedly contingent on Lopez's cooperation.

Of course, Lopez Sr. signed. Oscar "Osky" Lopez's open letter to Enrile, published as a two-page newspaper ad in the INQUIRER, describes the circumstances preceding that sad episode. The wealth of detail it contains (Osky is a history buff, after all, and probably kept a diary chronicling that long family nightmare) gives the lie to Enrile's version of a voluntary surrender.

That Enrile, 30 years after the fact, comes out with this preposterous account is an insult to the memory of Eugenio Lopez Sr., added to the already tremendous injury he had suffered under the martial law regime, of which Enrile was an active participant until, faced with annihilation by Marcos, he had a conversion.

The Oscar Lopez account does not completely chronicle the injury, and only glosses over some of it. What is left out of that account is the pain that Lopez Sr. must have felt not just over being stripped of his economic and political power—which, after all, is considered par for the course in economic and political cycles—but also over the betrayal.

Betrayal by some he considered lifelong friends, when they made statements to the effect that all transactions that had been entered into (and that had stripped him of his wealth) were legal, aboveboard, and done without duress. They did not even bother to apprise him of what they had done.

Betrayal by subordinates and long-standing associates whom he had treated with generosity. How quickly they changed sides, and, worse, how quickly they used their knowledge of the Lopez group of companies against him as they faced him on the opposite side of the negotiating table.

The ultimate betrayal had to do with his son Geny. He was given to understand that his son's release was contingent on his giving in to all their demands. He actually signed the sale documents (in Hawaii) without reading them because, as his former special assistant and vice president admitted, they could not be changed anyway. Yet after signing his world away, he waited in vain for his son to be released. He realized then that they had never intended to do it in the first place.

Added to the pain of betrayal was the pain of loss—of "friends" and "admirers" who disappeared from his side the way rats desert a sinking ship. Those who stood staunchly by him and refused to consort with the enemy could probably be counted on the fingers of one hand. The pain of loss must have been all the more pronounced because during his glory days, he was constantly surrounded by people who hung on to his every word (or so it seemed to a witness from afar—me—because my husband Christian joined the Lopez group barely two years before martial law was imposed, and I was an interested if distant observer during social functions). *Sic transit gloria mundi.*

If Christian, whose relationship with Lopez Sr. was purely professional and was with the group for only a short time, was pained (actually, angry and contemptuous) at the sight of the erstwhile members of the Lopez coterie who were now buttering up to the new regime or actually sitting on the other side of the negotiating panel, how much worse must Lopez Sr. himself have felt? If I, who was a mere witness to the crowds that seemingly surrounded him wherever he went, was appalled by how quickly they forgot him, what more the old man himself?

Eugenio Lopez Sr. suffered pain and indignity, insult and injury, betrayal and loss toward the end of his life. His memory should not be subjected to them again more than 25 years after his death.

As for Johnny Ponce Enrile, there are many things in his life that he can justly be proud of. Taking pot shots at a dead man is not one of them.

‘Onerous’ demands vs ‘onerous’ provisions

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

MY radio partner, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, hosted a small get-together last Sunday noon at Hidden Valley Springs in Alaminos, Laguna, as an advance birthday party of sorts for her husband, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, since she won't be around on his birthday. She'll fly to Greece to attend a theater conference. But Secretary Alvarez was late, and the reason was that he was in Quezon where he had ordered an intensified crackdown on illegal logging during a surprise inspection by chopper. His team found bundles of 30- to 40-foot lauan logs measuring at least 70 cm in diameter, being transported down the Umiray River at the Quezon-Laguna boundary. Each bundle had about 30 to 50 pieces of decades-old logs.

From Umiray, Alvarez and his team proceeded to Real to padlock the Ksibu Sawmill, which has been the subject of many complaints about illegal logging and order the seizure of the logs and equipment worth about P12 million.

Alvarez told us later that tribesmen in the area are paid a measly P10 per log to float them down the river. He lamented that there are still a few places in the country where big-time illegal logging still goes on, among them Quezon, Aurora, Agusan del Sur and Salvador Benedicto in Negros Occidental. He stressed that the department needs more people to go after the loggers.

The DENR post is a thankless one, which could be hazardous to an official's health if he does his job of protecting our forests right.

* * *

The government talks about onerous provisions in the BOT contract with Piatco for the construction and operation of Naia III. But perhaps it would also be good to consider that the government could be making some pretty onerous demands on this poor company. This is making some people wonder if the government is not intent on running Piatco to the ground financially, to force it to raise the white flag of surrender so that the government could take over. For instance, I heard on TV a government official saying that the government would insist on reducing the $20 airport fee agreed upon in the original contract to the $11 currently being charged at Naia I and II. But as an insider noted, Naia III is four times bigger than Naia I and three times bigger than Naia II, apart from the fact that it is a state-of-the-art airport. Common sense dictates that airport fees ought to go a little higher—perhaps not $20, but certainly higher than $11, also considering that the government is bent on collecting P180 from every $11.

* * *

Another government stipulation, as I read in the papers, is that PAL's international flights will be allowed to stay in Naia II. This is contrary to the contract with Piatco that says all international flights will be relocated to Naia III. Leaving PAL in Naia II is certainly a concession to Lucio Tan, but this will reduce Piatco's earnings some more. Tan is being coddled by the government, and to think that, according to reports, PAL, which has exclusive use of Naia II, has not even begun to pay a single centavo for its use after all these years.

The government's unreasonable demands are being monitored by the business community and will certainly impact on BOT contracts in the future. One plus factor is that the government and Piatco appear ready to sit down and talk. There is need for reason on both sides, not onerous demands. The government has to protect the public interest, but it must allow Piatco to recover its huge investment in a reasonable manner.

* * *

There's some confusion in the media as to the identities of the newly appointed Naia III manager, retired Col. Guillermo “Gerry” Cunanan, and my husband. Even Piatco vice president Moises Tolentino mistakenly referred to Gerry as a “former ambassador to Cambodia.” The confusion is understandable, since both are retired military officers. Colonel Cunanan is from PMA class '66 and General Cunanan, the former ambassador to Cambodia, is West Point '61.

They are not related. In fact, I only met Gerry during the 1987 failed coup attempt staged by Gregorio Honasan's RAM. Gerry, by then retired from the service, attracted my attention because of a strong, well-argued letter he wrote to his fellow Peemayers appealing for loyalty to the Constitution and denouncing the RAM. He was appointed airport manager during the Ramos administration, where he did a competent job. He would be an asset to Naia III, especially during its birthing.

* * *

Some malicious people have been saying that I have been defending Piatco because I got the appointment for Gerry, who is either my husband or relative. Wrong. I have defended Piatco because I feel that it is wrong for the government to run to the ground a legitimate Filipino company that has a valid contract. If at all, it has been the government during various administrations that has been remiss in its oversight duty. I also feel quite concerned about the impact of the government's wrong moves on the business community, which already lacks confidence in this administration.

* * *

By the time this appears, I will be in Rome to witness the canonization of Blessed Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei, tomorrow, Oct. 6. In lieu of our regular program on dzRH tomorrow at 9:15 p.m., Cecile Alvarez and I agreed to cover the sights and sounds of the historic canonization. I will be calling from the steps of St. Peter's, courtesy of Globe Telecommunications, and she will be in the station booth.

Arts for the People

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

“WHY should we be helping to alleviate poverty when the CCP itself is short of funds?” Nes Jardin, president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, asked rhetorically during the press conference to announce the performances of the New York Philharmonic on Oct. 18 and 19.

The answer, he implied, is that the arts and culture community is itself impoverished. “We have three million artists and cultural workers in the country,” said Jardin, “and majority of them live below poverty level.” In addition, economic constraints have placed enjoyment and appreciation of the arts way beyond the reach of most Filipinos. At the same time, there's the widening and indeed artificial divide between the “serious,” usually Western-oriented, arts and indigenous forms of art under assault by pop culture.

This is why, said Jardin, the CCP board of trustees has decided that the “Arts for the People Program” should be their flagship program for the next five years, focusing on “the promotion of arts as a vital tool in national development and moral transformation.”

Among the projects undertaken as part of the “Arts for the People Program” is “Dangal ng Lahi,” a touring project on the life and works of the country's 45 National Artists designed “to make young people proud of their country and heritage.”

Also part of the program is the performance tour of Tanghalang Pilipino's production of “Anatomiya ng Korupsiyon,” a play written by Malou Jacob on the “culture of corruption” in government, staged inside the offices of government agencies, the performance spaces carved out from the actual working areas. Already, “Anatomiya” has been staged in three government offices, and Jardin and CCP vice president and artistic director Nanding Josef say they have approached the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs, among the two more notorious agencies, to sponsor performances for their employees.

* * *

“WE want artistic programs that value artistic excellence on the same level as using the arts as a tool for conscientization, social awareness and enhancement of our cultural art forms,” says Josef. “That means putting up productions that touch on ordinary people's problems and possible solutions to those problems. Like problems of identity, problems of graft and corruption and morality.”

Also part of the “Arts for the People Program” is the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) Music Scholarship Program for the underprivileged youth of Pasay City. Under the program, supported by the city government, 15 musically talented students are put under the tutelage of core members of the PPO, with the expectation that the scholars, after they finish their training, will return to their communities and share their new knowledge and form a small orchestra of their own.

This is not the first time the CCP has launched an ambitious outreach program to bring works staged and exhibited inside the rarefied confines of the CCP to grassroots audiences, and Manila-based artists and designers in touch with homegrown cultural workers and craftspeople. Local arts councils also help keep the exchange and expansion of talent and content lively.

But as the economy goes, so goes even laudable programs such as “Arts for the People.” In the last year or so, says Jardin, many of the projects under their flagship program have been reduced in scope, if not put on hold, because of the scarcity of funds.

* * *

NO wonder Jardin proclaims that when the CCP received word that the New York Philharmonic Orchestra had chosen Manila as one of their stops in this year's Asian Tour, he saw it as a “wonderful opportunity to raise money for the Arts for the People Program.”

Presented by Citigroup, which is observing its centennial in the Philippines, with the CCP, the NYPO concerts on Oct. 18 and 19 are a much-awaited event for arts lovers, especially since they feature new music director Lorin Maazel as conductor, and feature young Chinese pianist Lang Lang, proclaimed as “the biggest and most exciting keyboard talent encountered in many years.”

The concert on Oct. 18 will be a “sponsor's night,” an invitational affair hosted by Citigroup. The Oct. 19 concert will be a benefit performance for the “Arts for the People Program.” For the benefit show, the CCP has organized a gala committee headed by Mariter Jalandoni Macapagal as chairperson and Nedy R. Tantoco as co-chair, with members Lizzie Zobel, Francis Lumen, CCP chair Baltazar Endriga, Jardin, Chinggay Lagdameo, Triccie Sison, Irma Potenciano and Tessie Luz.

* * *

COME to think of it, the Asian Tour of the New York Philharmonic, one of the world's oldest, most admired and respected orchestra companies, is itself a cultural extension program, bringing music and artistry to audiences who otherwise would have to spend quite a bundle to listen to them live.

Catherine Weir, Citibank country manager who was also present at the press conference, said that for their invitational night, they have also invited public school students and young artists to give them this rare chance to gain exposure to the best of the world's music artists.

And for the performance on Oct. 19, Jardin says, they have priced Balcony II tickets at very reasonable rates, to allow music teachers and students the opportunity to watch the NYPO.

“Culture” may be a source of prestige and cachet, but it need not come at an exorbitant price. Even more important is a genuine love for the arts, an appreciation for excellence and self-expression, and admiration for genuine talent—all the reasons you need to listen to the New York Philharmonic.

I beg to differ

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

SPURRED on by movie-buff friends, I ended up watching double features at the Cine Europa Festival showing at the Shangri-La Mall, to the surprise of my son who couldn't understand why we were dropped off in the middle of the afternoon and wouldn't emerge until 10:30 p.m. My mom, another movie buff, would take me to double features at the Scala Theater once upon a time where we would bring siopao or hamburgers as *baon*, but these days I wasn't sure my posterior could take all that sitting down.

I needn't have worried. If you could have hassled up some time (it is the bane of modern existence that we're forever on the run), you would have enjoyed one of the few simpler pleasures left us.

What was an eye opener was the SRO attendance, on a week day at that. Granted that the movies were free, still, that didn't explain the long—and I mean long—lines of aficionados waiting for the doors to open. People were literally squatting and leaning on posts hours before the showing, patiently waiting in line.

What came to mind was a talented young Filipino director at the premier of “Amelie” some months ago who, when I asked why we couldn't produce that type of whimsical love story rather than the rape, screaming, gross nudity and just plain vulgarity that make up the usual local fare, replied that we didn't have the audience for it. (Filipinos take a bow—that's what the movie directors and producers think of you.) “Amelie” went on to play at the Greenbelt Theater for the next two months on popular request, and the crowds I saw there were young people who obviously appreciated exactly the type of movie that makes you smile and not puke.

Behn Cervantes had a more succinct explanation. He pointed out that the financiers whose names apparently are of the one-syllable type aren't interested in anything but their bank accounts.

The formula, according to Cirio Santiago, is very simple. Every 10 minutes you must have any of the following interchangeably: (a) rape, (b) nudity, (c) violence, (d) screaming. You don't need a scriptwriter (the director or someone makes up the dialogue then and there) or a wardrobe mistress (if local movies are to be believed, your common urban poor buys her clothes at Rustan's or Kamiseta and goes to the parlor regularly), and the movie must be finished in three weeks. The results are predictable. While Chinese, Indian and Taiwanese movies have gone on to win all kinds of awards at film festivals, no one bothers to even mention us.

But going back to the movies we managed to watch, let's hope that some of these will find its way to a regular run. There was to begin with Claude Lelouche's “And Now Ladies and Gentlemen.” We never found out why it had that title but it doesn't matter. Jeremy Irons looked positively deliciously decadent with bags under his eyes that needed baggage trolleys. It's a romance, of course, with a happy ending (enough of tragedies; we have too many of them) about two people with neurological quirks. The girl is a singer a la Piaf who sees orchestras and he is a former thief who imagines jewelry stores like Bulgari's. Needless to say, they meet by coincidence in Morocco, which is as good an exotic place as any to meet, wouldn't you agree?

This was followed by a wonderful story about relationships revolving around food. Doesn't sound interesting, stated in that manner, but “Mostly Martha” is a jewel of a movie. You have this good-looking up-tight German chef whose life revolves around her kitchen. Her life is turned upside down when her orphaned niece comes to live with her. Romance appears in the form of an Italian chef who in no way resembles Marcelo Mastroianni but oozes with charm (my seatmate's opinion.) There were no nude scenes, yet the movie was sensuous, with shots of huge emerald green basil leaves, lush juicy red tomatoes and platefuls of pasta. Depending of course on the simplicity of your mind, the erotic doesn't necessarily have to be a nipple. Is it possible that our present crop of directors is just too simple-minded? Or too lazy to think of anything other than titillation?

The Portuguese offering was perhaps the most complicated, in the sense that it is a period piece which is, I suppose, more expensive to produce. Set in Macao, a former colony, in 1900, it is another love story with the weird title of “Love and Tiny Toes,” a title which we weren't sure if it referred to the diseased feet of the hero or to Chinese women's warped feet. But it wasn't really important. You will enjoy the setting, the gorgeous costumes and the ending. Although it's another love story, it's not your “Sleepless in Seattle” type of cutesy film that curdles with sweetness.

There were many more films that we would have wanted to see but all of these were shown in a period of one week, so it just wasn't practical unless you made it a point to go to the movies every day!

The pity is that at the same time that Cine Europa opened, the Israeli Festival was on-going at Greenbelt. We managed to watch the premier where the embassy was forced to show another film because their choice was turned down by that watcher of our morals, the MTRCB. You understand that the premier was by invitation only. None of us could possibly have been less than 30 years of age, and certainly some of us were definitely older. Now would you believe that the MTRCB can ban a film that has been shown in major world capitals and won several awards for being unfit for Filipino's delicate eyes and ears? You gotta be kidding.

Dangling earrings

WHENEVER I enter a hellish phase in my life, I usually seek some relief in drinking, smoking and sleeping. I feel like these things can give me peace of mind. When I pour out my anguish to anyone who cares to listen, I count on the alcohol to numb my bleeding senses and the smoke that I continuously exhale to carry away the pain. Drunkenness becomes the prelude to a merciful sleep badly needed by a girl with a broken heart. Ah, the joys of intoxication!

YOUNG BLOOD

Justine Rose C. Mondoqedo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

The suspension of emotions, however, lasts for only a few dreamless hours. The pain kicks back the moment I wake up. Like the inevitable hangover, the pain remains fresh, and more excruciating than ever.

Telling myself that downing a bottle of Absolut every day won't make my problems go away, I decided to invest in a more healthy and symbolic diversion, shopping. But while other women would splurge on new shoes, a dress or a handbag, I bought dangling earrings.

I have always had a penchant for them. Together with racy underwear, dangling earrings make a woman feel a tad sexier. So I wear them to bolster my flagging courage.

I am not a regular churchgoer, and after months of not stepping inside a holy place, I decided that in my wretched state, the time was perfect to visit the house of God.

I went inside a church—me and my dangling earrings—to soothe the wounds of battle with some half-hearted prayers. As I sat on a pew mumbling, “Dear God, I wish I never met him,” my eyes fell on a solitary figure a few feet in front of me. Seated on a plastic chair was a leper, wearing a blue jacket, protection against the cold and the rain.

I have seen this leper since I was 15. He seemed to have made the church his home, presumably because he had no house of his own or a family. For years, I pitied him, believing he had lost everything, including his sense of self to the disease that made him an outcast.

The thing is, I had always assumed that the leper was a male. It was difficult to distinguish his original features since the disease had ravaged his body so much. Whenever I saw him, either in church or on the streets, he was always clad in a shapeless T-shirt and cotton trousers. This was his uniform, forced on him by dire circumstances, so it was impossible to see any tell-tale curves and bulges. His hair was always cropped short. And I never had the opportunity to hear him speak. As to how he spent his days and nights, I could only guess.

Every church maintains its own set of special charity cases. This church has scores of handicaps among its special tenants. Aside from the leper, there is also a mentally challenged man we simply call “Ogie” because he is a dead ringer for the popular singer. It is a resemblance that Ogie, the church guy, seems to be aware of. Every day he roams around the church grounds and the streets, clutching a portable cassette player and talks to everyone he meets.

Ogie is one of the leper's companions. They live in a shack on the right side of the church. I have not seen Ogie doing any chores around the church, but the leper does a lot of menial jobs, like giving away novena pamphlets or misalettes. Otherwise he hangs out with the sampaguita and candle vendors, sitting like a gargoyle beside the life-sized statues of angels, his seemingly grotesque appearance a study in comparison with the near-perfect sculptures.

On this particular day, I was mumbling prayers with my head bowed to seek divine help on matters of infinite importance to me when the leper suddenly stood up and began handing out novena pamphlets to everyone. When he approached to give me my copy, I happened to glance at his ears and, to my great surprise, I noticed that he—or should I now say she?—was wearing a pair of dangling earrings. They were cute ones, made of blue, pink and white beads.

I stared wordlessly at her, and she gave me a toothsome smile. “Novena *po*,” I heard her say in a distinctly feminine voice before moving on to other pews.

I was hit by a realization that was both comical and moral. I touched my dangling earrings. Symbolic indeed! I had these earrings because I was so down and recovering from a broken heart. The leper, who was afflicted with a disease that must have brought her more misery than I could comprehend, also wore the same earrings to feel a little better about herself. She, who had no family and home except the church, still had the lightheartedness and spirit to look good.

She had spent years in those shapeless clothes, and all those years I had thought she was a man. Had she not worn those earrings, I still wouldn't have known her gender, something which I had taken for granted. By wearing them, she made her real self known to me, as if to say, “Hey, all is not lost. You're still alive. Look at me, we are fighting almost the same battle, although the load on my shoulders is much heavier than yours. You'll live. You'll get through it somehow.” This thought filled me with shame for myself and gratitude for her. My heavy emotional and mental cross was something I was dealing with all of my waking moments, sometimes haunting me even in my sleep. During that extremely torturous month, I lost my sense of self almost completely and I was beginning to question my beliefs. It was hard to admit but I was in a suffocating emotional Alcatraz from which I thought I could not escape. I was hurting, and anyone within 10 feet could feel it.

Yet, this anguish of mine raised to many degrees could not possibly compare with the magnitude of the leper's misery, every day of her life. To be cast away and to be regarded as a freak, every day of her life. To shy away from people to protect herself against pity and disdain, silent though they might be, every day of her life. To make herself get up and have the courage to face the horrendous joke life made of her. The courage—or the bravado—that I managed to summon from the deepest recesses of my soul was nothing compared to the leper's undying spirit.

The novena was over. The leper started to collect the pamphlets. And despite everything, she looked happy, serene, quite content with what life had dealt her. And I thought I had problems.

It took someone who was a lot tougher than me and her dangling earrings to show me how wrong I was.

Justine Rose C. Mondoqedo, 21, is a Communication Arts major at the University of Santo Tomas.

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Target only the negligent doctors

THERE is a raging controversy regarding the proposed Medical Malpractice Act of 2002, otherwise known as HB 4955, which is clearly prejudicial against medical practitioners.

Acts of malpractice are never intentional for what doctor would deliberately harm a patient he hardly knows, more so a friend or relative who seeks his expertise? He risks his relationships, being sued and having his integrity and reputation left in tatters as a result.

Negligent acts are also few and most are simply accidents. Events happen beyond the control of the doctor, which may result in injury, or even death of a patient.

HB 4955 is the wrong bill since it attacks all doctors, even the competent and dedicated ones who are victims of bad luck, whereas the intended targets are only the few negligent ones.

What we believe proponents should pursue instead is the indiscriminate practice of medicine by quacks and unqualified doctors, unless this is already covered by the Revised Penal Code. The law should mandate that no doctor be allowed to practice beyond his level of competence, or what he has not proven to be capable of doing, as determined by his peers.

An obstetrician should not be removing gall bladders, nor should an ENT specialist be performing appendectomies. The certifying boards of medical and surgical specialties are very strict and capable in this regard. They certify that a physician has proven his capability to practice a specialty.

The exceptions would be in cases of emergency, or at such times or in areas where a more qualified specialist is not available.

In a hospital setting, especially in Metro Manila, an uncertified physician practicing beyond his level of certified competence, should be held liable if something happens to the patient; and the hospital and referring doctor may also be liable for condoning this practice.

Of course, even doctors practicing within their specialty and competence would still be liable for negligent acts under Article 365 of the Revised Penal Code.

—EUGENIO A. PICAZO, M.D.,
chair, Medico Corp., Lourdes Drive corner San Miguel Avenue,
Ortigas Commercial Center,
Pasig City 1605

What really jeopardizes the anti-crime campaign?

THE COALITION Against Death Penalty (CADP) welcomes the announcement to suspend the execution of death row convicts pending the delegation of Congress on the abolition bills. It is only appropriate that President Macapagal-Arroyo extend this courtesy to Congress since a good number of our legislators are contemplating the repeal of the death penalty law.

As expected, pro-death penalty advocates protested the announcement, declaring that such decision of the government would undermine its anti-crime campaign. Far from it. What jeopardizes the campaign is the tendency of this government to exploit it for political purposes. Instead of taking the sensible but difficult task of addressing the root causes of crime, the government resorts to quick-fix solutions such as the death penalty. The campaign against crime should not be an isolated pursuit. It should be pursued in tandem with poverty alleviation and strengthening the moral fiber of our society.

—FR. SILVINO L. BORRES JR., S.J.,
coordinator, Coalition Against Death Penalty, c/o CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care, 470 Gen. Luna St.,
Intramuros, Manila

The still unfulfilled promise of barangays

IN THE EARLY years of the barangays, I had misgivings that these groupings would become political blocs at the politicians' beck and call. Sad to say, some barangays have become and remain under the spell of traditional politicians.

But I see a bigger role for barangays since these represent the ideal political structure for grass-roots governance. The barangay is the prime mover of the community's work program in cooperation and coordination with the municipal government. Barangay officials should initiate economic activities for their constituents, so that illegal gambling like *jueteng* does not thrive. A prosperous barangay is an asset to the municipal government which, in turn, can focus its attention on bigger concerns such as health and other basic services.

Aside from beautification and sanitation drives, the barangay can fight drug addiction, stop petty crimes and maintain peace and order in the community. Barangay officials should discourage dog owners from letting loose their pets in the streets as these are both a nuisance and a danger.

What a boon to the municipal government if all the barangays could become catalysts and work for the economic and social betterment of their respective constituencies. It is presumed that barangay officials, by their leadership, have envisioned the emergence of self-sufficient communities. As Mike Levett said: "Leadership does not only rely on a vision of the future, but also on the ability to translate that vision into reality."

—ADELFA L. ETRUISTE,
E. Glinoga St., Barangay Castillo,
Pitogo, Quezon

Validity of Puerto Princesa recall elections

THIS is a reaction to Belinda Olivares-Cunanan's column last Sept. 16 and 17, 2002.

Lawyers are a doubting lot. People say they always manage to doubt what the other party says. People expect it, the lawyers themselves live on it. The lawyers of Puerto Princesa City Mayor Dennis M. Socrates are trying their best to cast doubt on the validity of the recall proceedings against their client; everyone else, including the Commission on Elections and the solicitor general, think otherwise.

When non-lawyers enter the fray on the clear instigation of one party, however, one has to question the opinions expressed if they reflect the arguments made by the contending side and are directed at the entity which is deliberating the merits of the case.

Cunanan, after a short visit to Puerto Princesa City, now apparently considers herself an expert on Puerto Princesa City politics. What is blatantly clear, however, is that she clearly only talked with the people of Socrates. She does not even have the sense of fairness to get the side of Edward S. Hagedorn. To set matters straight, therefore, allow me to supply her the following facts:

1. The Puerto Princesa City recall election is no big deal as far as jurisprudence is concerned. Previous recall elections have enriched our political jurisprudence on recall.

These cases resolved all questions related to recall, including, but not limited to the constitutionality of the Preparatory Recall Assembly as a mode of recall, the time bars; the possibility of abuse and the phrase "loss of confidence."

2. Cunanan did not even have the time to check her facts; the resolution approving the recall resolution was promulgated by the Comelec en banc, not by just the First Division under Commissioner Rufino Javier.

3. The solicitor general confirmed the regularity of the procedure and the validity of the decision of the Comelec.

4. The disqualification issue is not a legal issue, it is a grammatical issue. The import of the legal phraseology of the law is so clear only if its English construction is at issue. The legal import of the term is three years. What would have been the prohibited fourth consecutive term of Hagedorn is now, for all intents and purposes, the term of Socrates. If, for any reason, he is unable to serve out his term, whoever takes over serves out only the unexpired portion of Socrates' term. To interpret the issue otherwise would place President Macapagal-Arroyo in a quandary.

Cunanan wants the Supreme Court to expeditiously resolve the petition of Socrates, and gave the land's highest court a time table. The Supreme Court is not a trier of facts. And it certainly will not allow itself to be pressured into doing something lawyers in a pending case want it to do. The Supreme Court should now rule on the Puerto Princesa recall election.

—TENCHIE YANGA,
TagBalay Foundation Inc.,
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

SEC clarifies 'inaction' in BW scam

WE wish to comment on Ron Nathan's statement regarding the BW scam which came out in his column, "Mr. Bearbull," last Sept. 23, 2002.

Nathan wrote: "One reason that public interest has dried up in the BW scam which was not punished as it should have been. Many brokers escaped with fines of P5,000."

It is incorrect to say that many brokers involved in the BW scam "escaped with fines of P5,000." The fact is that the Securities and Exchange Commission has caused the filing of administrative and criminal charges against those involved in the scam, particularly, Dante Tan and his group as well as broker corporations responsible for the manipulation of BW Resources shares.

The criminal cases involve offenses that have possible penalties ranging from 7 to 21 years of imprisonment or fines from P5,000 to P500,000 or both. As these cases are currently being tried in the courts, some are still with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and no specific penalties have yet been imposed.

Secondly, last July 11, 2002, the SEC accepted the settlement offers of 75 broker firms involved in the stock manipulation scam. Totaling P11,426,500, these payments settled the administrative charges brought by the commission against the brokers. They did so without admission of guilt and to avoid continuous hearings. If they have been charged with the DOJ, the settlement is without prejudice to the criminal case against them. Of the list, only seven had paid in the amount of P5,000 and below and charges in these cases are minor. In fact, a number of cases involve record-keeping.

The payment of the settlement offers did not affect the criminal cases filed before the DOJ against some of the brokers. As the criminal cases have not been resolved, the commission in part did not press for admission of wrongdoing as this would have resulted in a prejudgment of the cases.

—LILIA R. BAUTISTA,
chair, Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC Building, Edsa,
Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

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US Congress debates war against Iraq

NEWS ANALYSIS

Erika Pontarelli

WASHINGTON—The US Congress was set Friday to step up debate on Iraq after the House of Representatives moved closer to granting President Bush authorization to use military force against Baghdad.

The House International Relations Committee voted 31-11 late Thursday to approve a resolution jointly crafted by the House leadership and the White House.

The resolution would authorize Bush to use the military "as he determines necessary and appropriate" to defend national security interests and enforce UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq.

An aide for the Democratic leadership said the measure also required Bush to assure Congress that "diplomacy has been exhausted" and that "action against Iraq will not imperil the war on terrorism." The Senate voted 95-1 to open preliminary debate on the proposal.

The votes came as Secretary of State Colin Powell consulted with Russia and other countries on the economic and political ramifications of ousting Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

But Baghdad threw down the gauntlet, with Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan challenging Washington to a duel between Saddam and Bush that the White House denounced as "irresponsible."

"Both groups should use the same weapons, a president against a president, a vice president against a vice president," Ramadan said. "If they are serious, this way we are saving the American and the Iraqi people."

Democratic Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle appeared to dig in his heels for a protracted debate, calling for refinements to the resolution. "I am still confident that at the end of the day we're going to be able to develop a broad, bipartisan consensus about this authorization...but we're just starting," he said.

"The resolution before us today is not only a product of haste; it is also a product of presidential hubris," said Democratic Sen. Robert Byrd, the lone dissenter in Thursday's Senate vote. He called the resolution "an unprecedented and unfounded interpretation of the president's authority under the Constitution, not to mention the fact that it stands the charter of the United Nations on its head."

Republican Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott, however, put the onus on the world body and said the Senate should move forward. "If the United Nations is to be a force for peace, it must show that it stands ready to meet this ongoing threat to the international community," he said. "If it does not, it too will be consigned to the ash heap of history, as the League of Nations was before it. The president of the United States is going to be granted the authority that he needs to deal with this threat of weapons of mass destruction and the dangers to the American people and the world."

Daschle said the Senate would work until its anticipated Oct. 11 recess—and all the way up until the Nov. 5 mid-term elections, if necessary. "I think we're going to have a good debate, and a good debate depends on how long people feel the need to express themselves," Daschle said, adding there would not be a filibuster.

Daschle said two amendments had been proposed, including one by Sen. Carl Levin that would revise language which authorizes force on a "go-it-alone" basis. Another would be more explicit regarding the conditions under which Bush could authorize a preemptive strike against Iraq, as well as requiring that force should first be pursued under UN auspices, he said.

AFP

Tribute to a young Filipino martyr

"WE lost a son. But we earned many sons, brothers and a lot of friends in the Society of Jesus. This is a blessing in disguise, despite the pain it has visited on our family...on me, his mother, in particular."

This, in a nutshell, was the response of Visitacion Fernando in a eulogy given in her youngest son's funeral. He died a martyr serving as a missionary to Cambodian war victims, especially orphaned students, when he was killed on Oct. 17, 1995.

Richard Michael "Richie" R. Fernando, S.J., grappled with a man intending to throw a grenade at a crowd of disabled students and war orphans under rehabilitation. When the grenade dropped from the man's hand, Richie covered it with his body to protect the students.

It is not easy to fathom the strength of Ms Fernando and her gratitude to God for the "grace of acceptance" of her son's passing. With a wry smile, she relates how remorseful the culprit is in a letter he sent to the Fernando family, even as she agreed to an appeal from some sympathetic people to have the 14-year sentence meted out on him reduced.

An urn containing Richie's blood was buried in front of a monument in Cambodia erected in his honor, simultaneous with the burial of his body in Manila.

Surprisingly, a rosebud blossomed, for the first time, in front of the monument during his mother's week-long visit to her son's mission on invitation of the Cambodian government. It blossomed to full flower before she left for her trip back home.

On Oct. 17, the Cambodian people will join Filipinos in observance of Richie's seventh death anniversary.

—JOE C. MARQUEZ,
Sto. Niño, Parañaque City

Did SC resolve Maysilo case in 1992?

YOUR paper recently published an item in its Aug. 27, 2002 issue reporting on the motion filed by the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) to reopen the Maysilo Estate case at the Supreme Court.

The current TCT holders were maligned by the OGCC motion and the news report on this motion, by being branded as "syndicated landgrabbers *(sic)*" and instigators of "the mother of all land scams."

In fairness to them, I wish to point out that in a resolution dated Sept. 9, 2002, the Supreme Court denied said motion to reopen MWSS vs. Court of Appeals et. al., stating that it had resolved "to EXPUNGE from the records of this case the [OGCC's] (a) motion to review and reopen the case; and (b) said motion for review and reopen."

The Supreme Court denial was based on the fact that it had already resolved the matter in a decision dated Dec. 17, 1992.

—PETER PAUL S. ROMERO,
legal counsel, RDC Management & Consultancy Inc.,
Unit 214 Parc Chateau Condominium, Onyx St.,
Ortigas Center,
Pasig City

Bush threatens to bypass UN on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS/WASHINGTON—The White House and UN officials were meeting on Friday to renew efforts to forge a common front on Iraq as US President George W. Bush threatened to bypass the global body if it failed to force Baghdad to disarm.

Hans Blix, the chief UN inspector in charge of accounting for Iraq's chemical, biological and ballistic weapons, and Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, were coming to Washington for talks with US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

The US Senate was also resuming debate on Friday on Bush's demand for authority to launch a possible US strike on Iraq, which Congress was expected to grant overwhelmingly even as some lawmakers moved to trim the scope of the war powers.

But Bush faced increased resistance from key UN Security Council members to military action against Iraq, which Washington accuses of amassing weapons of mass destruction.

But UN arms inspectors signaled on Thursday they would delay their initial inspections in Iraq until the Security Council completed work on a resolution proposed by Washington and backed by Britain that could pave the way for a possible US-led war against Iraq.

"We are ready to go but we have not booked our tickets yet," Blix told Swedish SR public service, referring to the delay.

The White House has sharply denounced the rules under which Iraq agreed on Wednesday to allow a return of UN arms inspectors. Spokesman Ari Fleischer said the inspectors would be "nothing more than tourists" without a tough new UN resolution.

The inspectors had wanted to send advance teams to Baghdad on Oct. 19. But after briefing the Security Council on Thursday, they made clear they would hold off if the council did not adopt a resolution before then as Washington and London want.

Washington and London insist in their proposed resolution on setting out wide powers for the inspectors. The measure would allow UN members, such as the United States, to decide when to carry out any military action should Baghdad not comply.

Russia, China and France—all veto holders in the UN Security Council—have dug in their heels against the proposal.

Blix and ElBaradei reached agreement on many arrangements for the return of the UN inspectors in talks with Iraqi arms experts in Vienna this week. The inspectors have been out of Iraq since 1998.

Blix said one "loose end" in the Vienna talks was Iraq's not being able to guarantee the safety of inspectors working in "no-fly" zones in the north and south of the country, which are patrolled by US and British planes that have bombed Iraq military targets in response to attacks. *Reuters*

War drums spur Kurdish rivals to unite

ISTANBUL—Iraqi Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani said he would on Wednesday visit the home base of a rival for the first time since 1994, as the prospect of US-led attacks on Iraq adds impetus to their reconciliation.

The Kurds of northern Iraq broke away from Baghdad's control in the wake of the 1991 Gulf War and seem sure to form a part of any US-led bid to oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The United States has protected the mountainous Kurdish enclave from government attack with air patrols for more than a decade and invested years of diplomacy into uniting the two feuding Kurdish factions that run the region.

Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said he would visit rival leader Jalal Talabani in Talabani's home province of Sulaymaniyah for the first time since "the fall of Kurdish consensus and the start of internal conflict in 1994-1998".

A US-brokered ceasefire in 1998 put an end to years of sporadic fighting between the pair over territory, power-sharing and revenues from border trade.

"This meeting is significant as it will open a new page of Kurdish harmony and unity," Barzani's party said in a statement.

"The two leaders will discuss political developments and . . . will agree to strengthen Iraqi Kurdish unity in the face of increasing challenges," it said.

The meeting comes two days before a milestone meeting of a Kurdistan parliament designed to formalize the new warmth between the rival groups that were fighting as recently as 1998.

The division of seats in the assembly has long been a bone of contention between the KDP and Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and it has not met since 1996.

The two parties late last month agreed on a draft constitution for the kind of Iraq they would like to see if the United States ousts Saddam.

The charter sees the oil-rich city of Kirkuk—currently run by the Iraqi government—as capital of the Kurdish region.

That, as well as the trappings of statehood such as a Kurdish flag, alarms Turkey, which is opposed to the formation of any separate Kurdish state out of any turmoil in Iraq. *Reuters*

Man fires shots at UN building

UNITED NATIONS—A postal worker jumped the fence around UN headquarters and fired several shots in the air on Thursday, striking the building at least twice and sending UN staffers scurrying for cover.

The man, identified as Steve Kim, 57, and believed to be of Korean descent, threw leaflets in the air containing a rambling, handwritten message about human rights in North Korea before being grabbed by security agents.

Kim is a resident of Des Plaines, Illinois, near Chicago, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said in New York.

He has been an employee of the US Postal Service since 1988 and is currently a mail processing clerk at a Palatine, Illinois plant, postal officials said.

The gunman was believed to have fired seven shots, UN security chief Michael McCann told reporters.

At least two bullets struck the 18th and 20th floors of the landmark UN Secretariat building on Manhattan's East Side, piercing windows and "narrowly missing several employees," but causing no injuries, he said.

While several UN staff members were receiving medical attention, none was wounded by the gunfire, McCann said.

UN spokeswoman Nanci St. John, who watched the incident from her third-floor office, said the man had already thrown down his gun when apprehended.

"There was a man firing into the air. He fired several shots, then threw his gun down and was grabbed by security guards," she said.

The man, about 57 years old and wearing brown slacks and a blue shirt, began firing his .357 magnum revolver just after 1 p.m. while standing on the broad circular driveway in front of the UN Secretariat. *Reuters*

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A REBEL soldier patrols in a vehicle Oct. 3 in the northern Ivory Coast town of Korhogo.

AFP

Ivory Coast gov't, rebels to sign truce

YAMOUSSOUKRO, Ivory Coast—Ivory Coast's rebels and government officials were due to sign a ceasefire in the capital on Friday, halting a 16-day revolt which has plunged the region into turmoil.

West African mediators, including a minister from Africa's most populous nation Nigeria, flew to rebel stronghold Bouake on Thursday in French military helicopters to meet the dissidents.

"We have achieved an important first step to the process of dialogue and negotiating an end to the crisis," chief mediator Mohamed ibn Chambas said after the rebels agreed to a ceasefire.

Bouake, the second city after the coastal commercial hub Abidjan, fell to the rebels on Sept. 19 when their uprising against President Laurent Gbagbo failed.

Hundreds have died and thousands been displaced by the rebellion, exacerbating tensions in a country of 16 million people which has many different ethnic groups and in which tension between Christians and Muslims is easily stoked.

Local rebel chief Tuo Fozie, an army veteran who fled into exile before being jailed in absentia for trying to kill a former military ruler, said talks would continue at the signing ceremony in Yamoussoukro, due to be held at 4 p.m.

"We want a stable Ivory Coast in which everybody is Ivorian and everybody is equal," said Fozie, who hails from the largely Muslim north of Ivory Coast, a region which has long complained of discrimination by southerners.

The rebels have said if they gain power they will stage new elections after a short transition.

President Gbagbo, who won power in a contested poll two years ago, has said he is ready to agree a ceasefire. However, the government is anxious not to accept the de facto separation of the country between north and south which it would imply. *Reuters*

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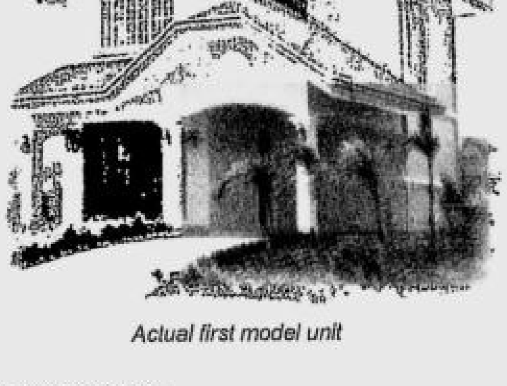
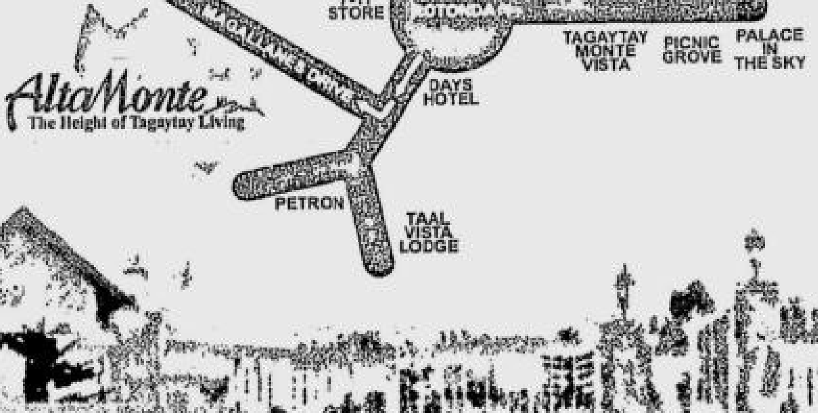


Actual first model unit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Pakistan test fires missile which could carry nuclear warheads deep into India

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan Friday test fired a medium-range ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead deep into Indian territory, military officials said.

The test of the indigenously-developed Hatf-IV (Shaheen) missile, with a range of up to 800 km, is Pakistan's fourth missile test since May, when it was close to war with nuclear neighbor India.

Friday's test comes amid renewed tensions between the South Asian neighbors over a spate of killings blamed on Pakistani-based militants during elections in the Indian-run half of Kashmir.

A defense ministry spokesperson said "neighbors" were informed in advance.

"Prior notification was given to neighbors as well as some friendly countries," the spokesperson said.

The test launch also comes 10 days after India tested a Trishul or Trident short-range missile, which can carry a 15-kilogram nuclear or conventional warhead and possesses a range of nine km.

A senior Pakistani defense analyst and former high ranking air force officer, Ayaz Ahmed, interpreted the test as a message to India "not to indulge in any misadventure."

"It is a multi-purpose, multirole missile. It goes deep into the adversary's territory and is capable of carrying a nuclear payload," retired air marshal Ahmed, the former number two of the Pakistani air force said.

"It will deter India from carrying out a nuclear or conventional attack."

India said it was unfazed by the test firing, and linked it to imminent national elections in Pakistan on Oct. 10.

"We are not unnecessarily perturbed by this kind of missile test," Indian defense ministry spokesperson told AFP in New Delhi.

Foreign ministry spokesman woman Nirupama Rao said the test was "clearly targeted at the forthcoming general election in Pakistan."

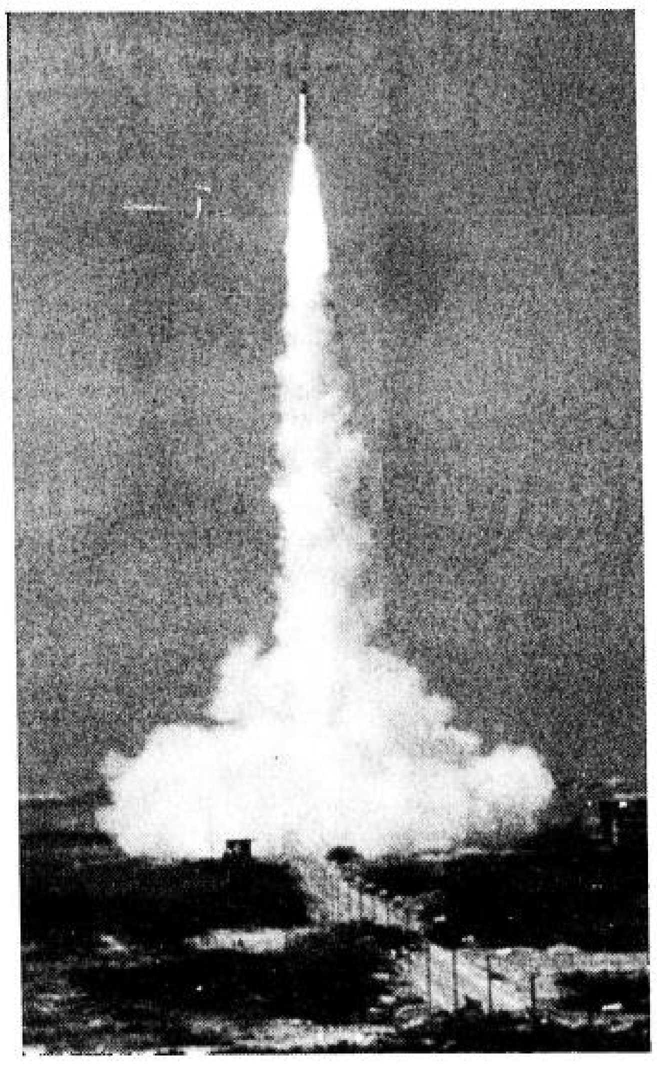
"As we have said before, we are not particularly impressed with these missile antics of Pakistan," she told reporters.

"As is well known, Pakistan missiles are based on clandestinely imported materials, equipment and technology."

Tensions between Pakistan and India have been on a knife edge since last December, when a deadly attack on India's parliament was blamed on the Pakistan-based Islamic militant groups Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad.

Both groups were banned by President Pervez Musharraf in January.

The arch-rivals have had around a million troops deployed eyeball to eyeball across their common border ever since. *AFP*



SHAHEEN I, a Pakistan-made missile with the range of 750 km and capable of carrying a number of different of warheads, is launched in this April 15, 1999 file photo near Karachi. AP

US retires Peacekeeper missiles

HAWK SPRINGS, Wyo.—They could travel halfway around the world in 30 minutes, capable of delivering death and destruction, but on Thursday the intercontinental ballistic missile known as the Peacekeeper reached the end of its career.

With the Cold War between the former Soviet Union and the United States over, US President George W. Bush announced in November 2001 the missiles would be decommissioned.

"The Peacekeeper showed the determination of the American people to remain free and never be intimidated by anyone," Secretary of the Air Force James Roche told reporters. "I'm delighted this day is here," he said at the start of deactivation of the missiles.

The US nuclear arsenal will go from 6,000 warheads to between 1,700 and 2,200 and the Peacekeeper will contribute 500 warheads to the reduction goal.

The Peacekeeper is the most powerful intercontinental missile because it can deliver up to 10 independently targeted warheads. All 50 of the Peacekeepers are located in southeastern Wyoming and are operated and maintained by the 90th Space Wing at the E.F. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne.

At first the military wanted to house the missiles on railcars that would travel around the United States. But in the end it was decided to install all the Peacekeepers in Wyoming. *Reuters*

Taipan tapped to help N. Korea zone arrested

BEIJING—The businessman tapped by North Korea last week to head its new special economic zone was arrested by Chinese police early Friday on suspicion of tax evasion, a South Korean news agency reported, a day after he promised to pay his taxes immediately.

Yang Bin, one of China's richest men, was taken into custody at 5 a.m. in the northeastern city of Shenyang, where his company's headquarters is located, Yonhap said in the report from Beijing, which quoted a Chinese government source. It said he was arrested immediately before departing for North Korea.

The purported arrest, also reported by two television stations in Seoul, South Korea, could not immediately be independently verified.

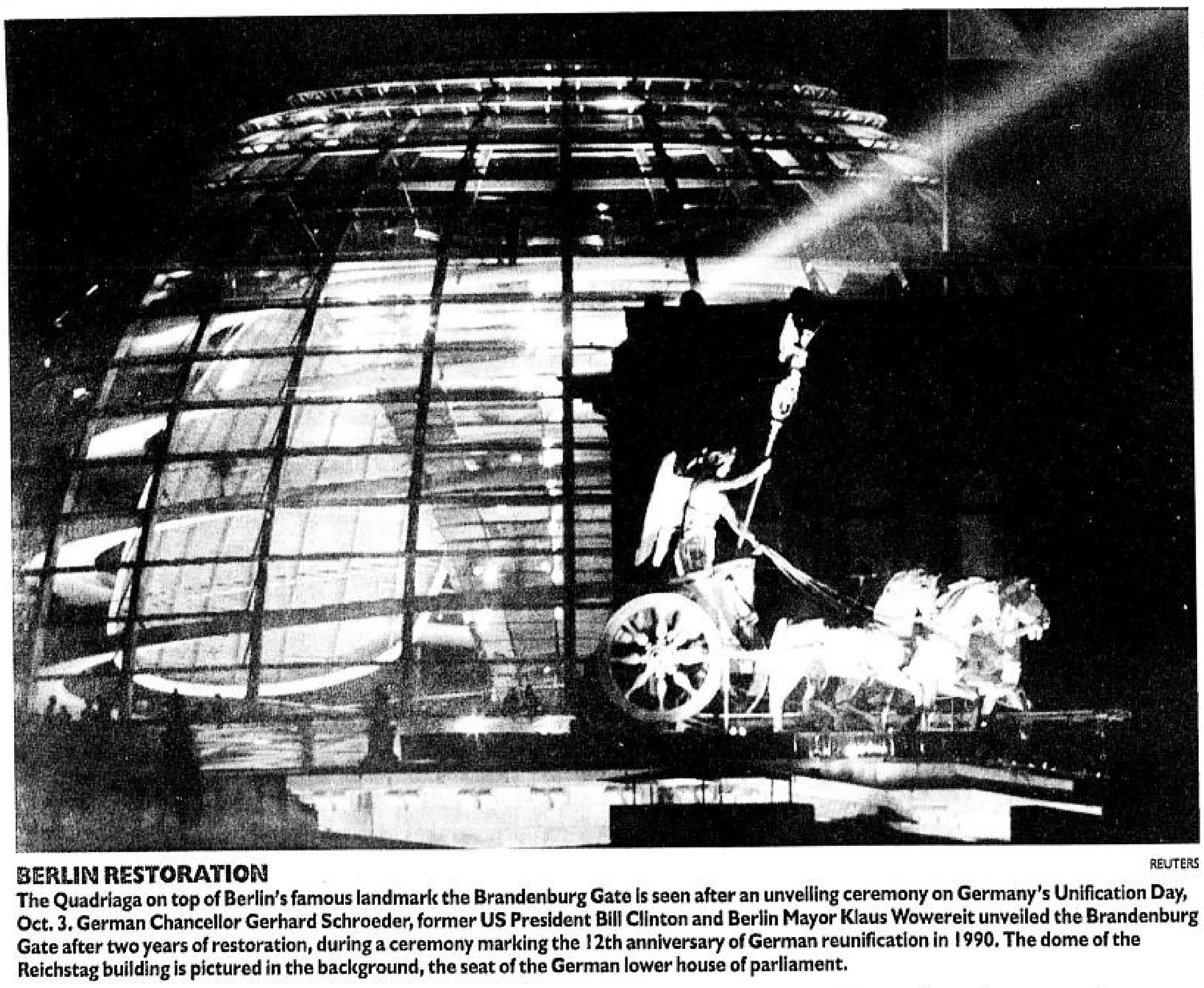
The Presidium of North Korea's legislative Supreme People's Assembly issued a decree Sept. 12 setting up the Sinuiju Special Administrative Region just across the border from northeastern China, and swore in Yang last week to head it, and he has been holding news conferences ever since.

But Yang has been plagued by financial problems. News reports this week said he was being investigated by Chinese authorities for not paying his taxes. At the news conference Thursday, he said he planned to pay 10 million yuan ($1.2 million) in real-estate development tax by Oct. 12.

"That's no problem," he said. "I've already worked out an agreement about that."

An officer at the Shenyang Public Security Bureau who did not give his name said he was not clear whether any arrest had taken place. "We've gotten a lot of calls. We're preparing some information," he said, but could not say when.

Repeated phone calls to Yang's spokesman at his Hong Kong-listed firm, Euro-Asia Agricultural Holdings Co., went unanswered, and the spokesman's mobile telephone was turned off. At Euro Asia's Hong Kong office, a woman who did not give her name said she had no information about the arrest. *AP*



REUTERS

BERLIN RESTORATION

The Quadriaga on top of Berlin's famous landmark the Brandenburg Gate is seen after an unveiling ceremony on Germany's Unification Day, Oct. 3. German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, former US President Bill Clinton and Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit unveiled the Brandenburg Gate after two years of restoration, during a ceremony marking the 12th anniversary of German reunification in 1990. The dome of the Reichstag building is pictured in the background, the seat of the German lower house of parliament.

Turkey lifts death sentence on Kurd rebel Ocalan

ANKARA—Turkey's state security court on Thursday formally lifted the death sentence passed on Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan after his capture and trial in 1999, the state-run Anatolian news agency said.

Ocalan has lived in the shadow of the noose on Imrali prison island since he was whisked away from Kenya by Turkish special forces and tried here for treason. Turkish authorities blamed him for 30,000 deaths in a 16-year separatist campaign in the southeast.

Anatolian said the Ankara State Security Court had commuted the sentence to life imprisonment in line with Turkey's abolition of the death sentence in August to meet European Union (EU) human rights criteria.

The ruling, though a formality, has strong symbolic value in Turkey. It is likely to be greeted with derision by groups that have campaigned for the last three years for "Apo" to be hanged.

While he was on trial on Imrali, standing inside a glass box in the courtroom, groups demonstrated nearby demanding the man denounced in newspapers as a "baby killer" be hanged quickly.

The court move can be held up by pro-EU reformers as concrete evidence of improvement in human rights ahead of an EU review next week of progress made by candidate countries. *Reuters*

5 killed for no reason in Washington suburb

WASHINGTON—Police pressed a far-flung manhunt Thursday after five people were shot dead for no apparent reason within 16 hours in the affluent Washington suburb of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Each of the five victims—one Wednesday night and four within a four-hour period Thursday morning—was shot dead with a single bullet, said Montgomery County police captain Nancy Demme.

She said a sixth shooting was reported at a store earlier Wednesday, but no one was injured.

All the shootings occurred within a radius of a few miles, she said.

"We have no motive, and no connection just yet on any of the deaths," she said.

Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan said a reward of "up to $50,000" was posted "for information leading to the arrest" of the shooter or shooters.

"This mindless violence has affected the entire region," he told a press conference.

"We are continuing our search for the person or persons responsible for these wanton acts of violence," he said. "We are asking the people of the region to remain calm but also to remain vigilant."

Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose said a 24-hour hotline was established, "manned by trained, veteran investigators . . . who know how to work with people and ask the right questions."

Moose repeated earlier information that they were focusing on two men and a white van bearing black lettering and with damage to a rear door, possibly a Mitsubishi or an Isuzu, seen by a witness who was standing close to one of the victims.

Asked if the shootings could be a terrorist act, Moose said, "We are not closing any possibilty." *AFP*

American Taliban expected to draw 20 years in prison

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—John Walker Lindh, the American captured by US forces during the war in Afghanistan, was expected on Friday to be sentenced to 20 years in prison for fighting in support of the Taliban last year.

Under a plea deal hammered out in July, Lindh was spared a possible life prison sentence and all terrorism charges against him were dropped. In exchange, he pleaded guilty to two charges of aiding the Taliban and carrying explosives.

He had originally been charged with 10 counts of conspiring to kill Americans and conspiring with the Taliban and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. The United States blames Bin Laden and al-Qaida for the Sept. 11 attacks last year that killed more than 3,000 people.

Reviled by some Americans who saw him as a traitor, Lindh, who became known as the American Taliban, was caught in Afghanistan in late November while fighting with the Taliban movement. He was handed over to the US military on Dec. 1, 2001.

Lindh will appear before District Judge T.S. Ellis at 2 p.m. for his sentencing.

Prosecutors said last week Lindh was following through with his side of the plea bargain and should be sentenced to 20 years in prison, as agreed to in the plea deal.

Noting Lindh had known that he was breaking the law, the prosecutors said the sentence was appropriate.

"Between June 2001 and December 2001 John Walker Lindh made a series of deliberate and lawless choices which now place him before the court for sentencing," prosecutors wrote last week in a sentencing memo.

"He chose to swear allegiance to jihad (holy war) . . . And he chose to remain a member of the Taliban fighting force even after the United States entered the war against the Taliban, and even after he clearly understood the close relationship between the Taliban and . . . Bin Laden," they wrote.

Lindh, who traveled to Afghanistan in mid-2001 to take up arms with the Taliban against the US-backed Northern Alliance, converted to Islam as a teenager. He said in a television interview shortly after his capture that his "heart became attached" to the Taliban and that jihad was "exactly what I thought it would be." *Reuters*

Ad firms asked: Stop turning kids into insatiable consumers

By Maureen Bavdek

NEW YORK—Critics of advertising aimed at children say that Madison Avenue should stop exploiting youngsters by turning them into little insatiable consumers.

But marketing executives in the $500 billion-a-year industry who dream up the campaigns and slogans meant to capture the attention of children [illegible] are simply informing the consumer, and follow all the rules in doing so.

"There are people who take pot shots . . . who believe marketing to children should be banned," Paul Kurnit, president and founder of KidShop, a youth-focused marketing and communications consulting company said. "This has been going on for many, many years."

Jocelyn Longworth, editor of KidScreen magazine, said she could empathize with the critics' goals saying they were well meaning, although perhaps "naive about the nature of the business."

"It is a business, it's people selling things to make money and that's the reality of the world that we live in," Longworth said.

Controversy over advertising sweets, cereals, snacks and certain toys is not new, dating back to the early days of carnival barkers. Experts say the average US child is bombarded with some 40,000 commercials a year on television alone.

Corporations are now using more sophisticated marketing techniques to grab a child's attention and hold it, often for years.

Opposing groups such as Stop Commercial Exploitation of Children say children are easy targets.

"Corporations have continued to find new ways to expand the children's market by ignoring ethical standards, even those they themselves have put into place," Nancy Carlsson-Paige, a professor of education at Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, told the SCEC's second annual "summit."

SCEC wants legislators to make schools commercial-free zones, fund research into the psychological and health consequences of marketing to children, eliminate marketing to anyone younger than eight and require the Federal Trade Commission to investigate corporate marketing practices aimed at children, among other initiatives.

The Center for a New American Dream says that by the age of three, one in five American children begin to make specific requests for brand-name products. *Reuters*

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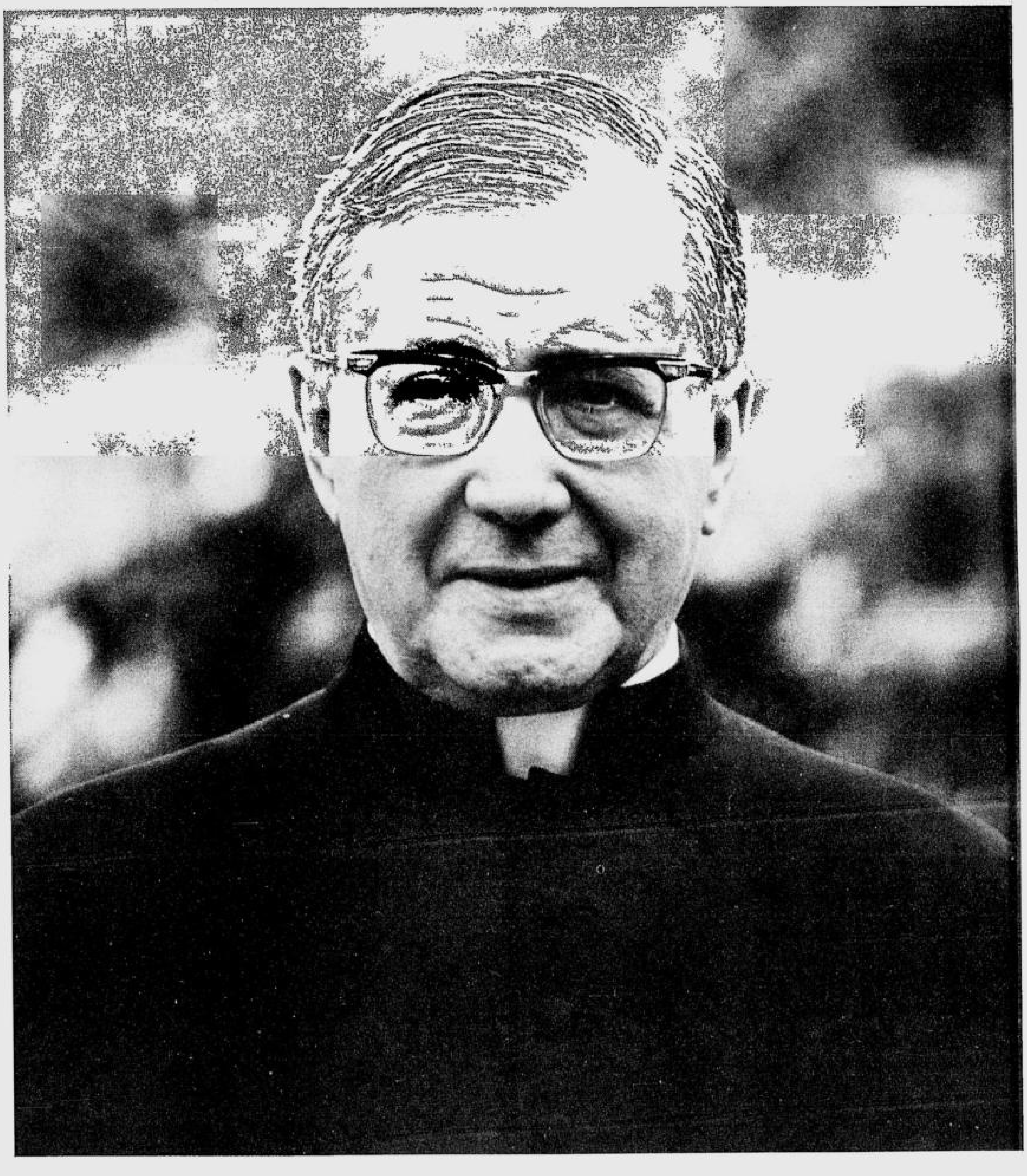
"Add a supernatural motive to your ordinary work, and you will have sanctified it."



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City, 6 Pampanga towns sinking

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—This city, the capital of Pampanga, and six other towns in the province, had sunk yearly at an average of an inch during the last 30 years, the Department of Public Works and Highways said in a report on Thursday.

The sinking of these areas, although occurring slowly over time, was confirmed in a recently concluded feasibility study on flood control projects in the Pasac Delta.

The Japanese consulting firm Nippon Koei and the DPWH's Mount Pinatubo Emergency-Project Management Office prepared the study.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong had endorsed the projects to the National Economic and Development Authority for funding by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

The study's final report said the yearly subsidence in San Fernando and Lubao were recorded from 1 to 1.5 centimeters; Mexico, 1 cm; Sto. Tomas and Minalin, 2.5 cm; Guagua, 2 cm; and Sasmuan, 2 to 2.5 cm.

The report said Japanese consultants and government engineers used permanent benchmarks in those areas to document ground elevation changes between 1972 and until early this year.

It said interviews were also held with residents to confirm land subsidence.

The report noted that the sinking had contributed to the worsening flood problem in those low-lying areas where the Pasig-Potrero and Porac-Gumain rivers drain toward the Pampanga Bay and finally to the Manila Bay.

It added that Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991 and its succeeding lahar flows had choked the waterways with volcanic sediments, aggravating the floods that had caused economic losses worth P1.47-billion yearly.

Government engineers also traced the serious flooding problem in those areas to the encroachment of fishponds in river channels.

However, engineers advised the concerned residents, estimated at about half the province's 2.3 million population, not to be alarmed about the sinking.

"People do not need to fear it compared to the effects of an earthquake (or) volcanic eruption," the report said.

It said that many delta areas in the world—like in Mississippi and San Joaquin rivers in the United States, Nile River in Egypt and Bangkok in Thailand—also undergo the same experience.

The natural compaction of fine grained sediments laid down by the delta, movements of faults, earthquake-induced liquefaction, groundwater withdrawal due to pumping and sea level rise are among the causes of land sinking.

What had caused lands in the Pasac Delta area to sink was still not clear, but engineers said the data indicated the sinking has been occurring since 1952.

They added that at this point, there was "no evidence to suggest that groundwater removal has any significant impact on subsidence."

ROUNDUP

School head suspended

NAGUILIAN, Isabela—The Ombudsman on Tuesday suspended a school principal here for corruption, dishonesty and misconduct charges. Carlito Florendo, principal of Minanga Elementary School here, was suspended for a month on the basis of a complaint filed by officials of Barangay Villa Paz, parents, the school's students and three teachers. The complainants said Florendo withdrew P21,700 from the school funds for the construction of a fence and accounted this only when an administrative case was filed against him. They also accused Florendo of padding the list of the school's enrollees and using school property for his personal needs. Jesus Guerrero, deputy Ombudsman for Luzon, warned Florendo "that a repetition of similar acts shall be dealt with more severely."
Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Probe of cops ordered

MABALACAT, Pampanga—The mayor here has ordered an investigation of the complaint filed by 11 police non-commissioned officers against police officials for alleged "inhuman and abusive treatment" of his men. Mayor Marino Morales asked Supt. Keith Singian, town police director, to investigate the complaint against Chief Insp. Manuel Chica, chief of a police outpost in Barangay Dau here. Morales asked Singian to "observe fairness and due process in the investigation" considering the gravity of the allegations against Chica. Chica dismissed the accusations against him as "baseless and unfounded." *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Videoke bar shooting

MEYCAUAYAN, Bulacan—A barangay captain shot and wounded a waitress and three customers in a videoke bar in Barangay Camalig here on Tuesday. Mayor Eduardo Alarilla ordered the police here to look for Mario Llamosa, 47, barangay chair of Bahay Pare and arrest him. Police said Llamosa, who went to the bar and later fell asleep in a chair, was awakened by noise from the group of customers Jonjon Reodique, 22, Jesus Bernardino, 47, and Miguel Alejaga, 42. Llamosa, police said, left the bar and returned carrying a long firearm. He then fired at the group, hitting the three victims and waitress Yolanda Ira, 34, who was near their table.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Drug pusher nabbed

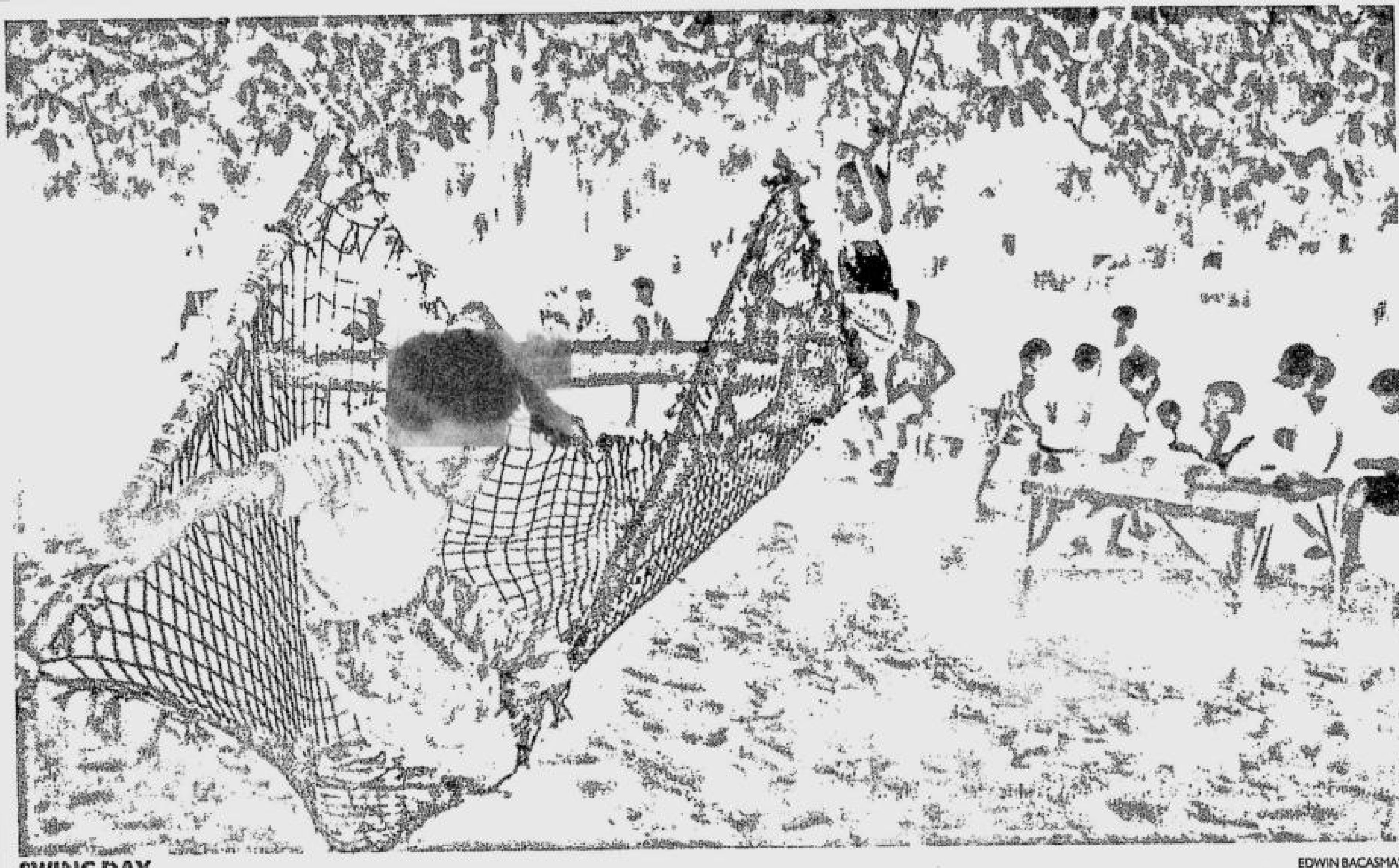
MALILIPOT, Albay—Albay police intelligence and investigation division operatives and local police here arrested a suspected drug pusher believed to be operating in Tabaco City and adjacent towns. Armed with a search warrant issued by Judge Romulo Villanueva of the Ligao regional trial court, the raiding team and village officials raided the house of Dionisio Buenconsejo in Barangay San Isidro Iraya this town. The team seized from Buenconsejo's possession 13 small plastic sachets containing methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu), two cell phone units believed to be used in the illegal drug trade, six bullets for .38 cal. guns, other shabu paraphernalia and P5,228 in cash.
Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'Car thief' acquitted

TABACO CITY—A man who took the brand new Toyota Revo patrol car of this city's police station escaped car theft charges filed against him by the police after a judge who conducted the preliminary investigation dismissed the case. Ronnie San Pablo was charged with violating the anti-car theft law (Republic Act 6539) when he reportedly drove the parked patrol car to bring his injured brother to a hospital. San Pablo, unfortunately, accidentally wrecked the patrol car when he smashed it into a tree along the national highway in Barangay Bangkilingan here. In his resolution dismissing the charges, Judge Arsenio Base cited Section 2 of RA 6539 saying, "carnapping (sic) is the taking with intent to gain of a vehicle belonging to another without the latter's consent, or by means of violence or intimidation of a person or using force upon things." *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Uncle stabbed dead

DARAGA, Albay—A 70-year-old rapist was stabbed to death by his own niece-in-law as he attempted to rape her on Wednesday night in Barangay Banag this town. Daraga police chief Supt. Genesius Molto identified the frustrated rapist as Domingo Mendia of the same barangay. Mendia was found dead by barangay and town police on Thursday morning inside his house bathing in his own blood. He suffered multiple stab wounds all over his body. During investigation, the woman admitted she killed her uncle-in-law in self-defense. She said her uncle tried to rape her. She revealed that Mendia had attempted to rape her several times but she had always escaped his rape attempts until last Thursday.
Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



EDWIN BACASMAS

SWING DAY
A hammock and an improvised swing attached to a tree provide as much fun to these children on Siargao Island as expensive pieces of playground equipment.

GMA appointees causing disenchantment in her home province

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Gov. Manuel Lapid may have a difficult time campaigning for President Macapagal-Arroyo should she run in 2004, as five Kapampangan appointees of the administration are said to be causing disenchantment among her provincemates.

Leaders of Lakas-NUCD, where Lapid is the provincial chair, on Friday noted the challenge the governor would hurdle in Ms Macapagal's home province in the 2004 national and local elections.

They were exchanging observations on Lapid's tough task to deliver the votes amid the "wide disenchantment" triggered by the appointments of five Kapampangans to several agencies.

The latest appointee was former Minalin Mayor Santiago Yabut. He was named deputy director general of the Technological Education and Skills Development Authority.

The Lakas-NUCD leaders were surprised over Yabut's appointment to the post. He was a suspect in a policeman's murder but the case was settled out of court.

Minalin residents had questioned the illegal quarrying and garbage dumping activities in the town when he was mayor.

Yabut told reporters that he was appointed by no less than Ms Macapagal. He said he was considered for the post because he was a doctor, a profession needed to supervise Tesda's training program for caregivers seeking jobs abroad.

Controversies have also hounded the appointments of Manuel Bondoc, the regional director of the Land Transportation Office; Health Undersecretary Epifanio Lacap; and Assistant Secretary Rene Maglanque of the Department of Transportation and Communication.

Bondoc, a former mayor of San Simon, Pampanga, was accused of extorting money from three LTO officials who sued him for graft.

Lacap, a former mayor of Masantol, Pampanga, was sued for allegedly grabbing lands at the high water channel of the Japanese-funded Pampanga Delta Development Project's flood-control component.

Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo is often reported as the "endorser" of these appointees. But Arroyo, in a text message to the INQUIRER, said: "I don't meddle in any appointive position." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

OFW comes home a millionaire, but won't enjoy wealth

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—An Ilonggo Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) who left in 1994 to work as a domestic in Cyprus, came home a millionaire but could not enjoy her wealth nor life in any sense.

Delia Marquilencia, 47, arrived here last week after more than two years of stay in a hospital in Cyprus for having severe injuries from a mini-bus crash in January 2000.

She was awarded an equivalent of P30 million in damages but the accident left her bed-ridden and needing 24-hour care for the rest of her life.

Marquilencia was among the survivors in the accident that left eight Filipinos and a two-year-old boy dead. She and 35 other Filipino and Sri-Lankan domestics were having a day trip to Larnaca in Cyprus when their vehicle smashed into a two-meter high concrete barrier on a sharp curve and skidded 200 meters down the road on the slopes of Troodos mountains.

She suffered head injuries and neurological damage. Despite months of physiotherapy in Cyprus, Marquilencia has not made any progress.

Marquilencia, through her lawyer, sued the bus company and last year won the case, giving her Cyprus Pound 370,000 (or around P30 million based on a P85 to a United Kingdom pound conversion rate. Note: one Cyprus pound is equivalent to 1.1 UK pound) in damages. The driver of the bus was jailed after being found guilty of causing death by negligence. Cyprus Consul General to the Philippines John Erotokritou is the joint administrator of the award together with the Cyprus Welfare Department.

Her Cypriot lawyer Elena Erotokritou was quoted by a Cypriot newspaper to have said that Marquilencia is no longer capable of enjoying her life in any sense. Marquilencia's sister, Amy, went to Cyprus in 2000 to look after her in Nicosia General Hospital.

But her family in Sta. Barbara town, 16 kilometers from Iloilo City, had wanted her back, hoping that she could regain her mental faculties when she is home. Her parents and siblings finally welcomed her home Sept. 26 after they were able to convince the Cypriot consul that they could take care of her.

Delia wept when she saw her mother, her brothers and sisters. She is now staying at the Iloilo Doctor's Hospital and under the care of Dr. Rolando Padilla, the hospital director, who also comes from Sta. Barbara.

"We plan to bring her home in Sta. Barbara. She might be healed there because friends and relatives would come and visit her," said her brother Raul.

"While she can be comfortable in a hospital in Cyprus we wanted to see her. Maybe she'll recover if she stays with us," added Delia's mother, Jesusa.

But Dr. Padilla said Delia suffers from an irreversible brain damage. Half of her body is paralyzed. While she could talk and recognize people who are close to her, she could not be expected to return to her old self, he added.

Raul, together with sister Amy, will receive monthly salaries as Delia's caregivers. The money from Cyprus will be administered by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) through its regional director Azucena Hisole.

Hisole said that part of Delia's money would be used to build a house for the family in Sta. Barbara on a 300-square meter lot bought by Owwa and the consul.

The new house would replace a bamboo house, which was rendered not suited for a nursing home because it does not have a sealed toilet.

Delia left for Cyprus in 1994 to work as domestic.

PNP says sorry for naming gang after provinces

CAMP DANGWA, Benguet—The furor over the government's use of Cordillera tribal groups as labels for Northern Luzon crime groups has struck a guilty chord at the Cordillera police office.

Chief Supt. Victor Luga, newly appointed Cordillera police director, offered Cordillera tribes a formal apology for slandering natives of Sagada, Mt. Province, and Kalinga.

Last July, 12 robbery suspects, who police said were members of a Sagada-Kalinga Gang, became one of the subjects of President Macapagal-Arroyo's controversial photo opportunities.

"I sincerely extend my apologies to the good people of Sagada and the province of Kalinga for that inadvertent police blunder. That mistake will never be repeated, nor (will) the people of the Cordillera . . . ever be cast in any form of prejudice by the police under this public servant," said Luga.

The initiative came on the heels of a Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) recommendation, which sought "alternative and scholastic approaches" to peace and order situations in the Cordillera.

"That's a good gesture from a gentleman," said Sagada Mayor Thomas Killip, who was the first to object to the police labels. "Everybody commits mistakes."

Kalinga Gov. Macario Duguiang told the INQUIRER on Friday that the province had accepted Luga's apology.

"We admit that (crimes happen) in Kalinga. We just hope that other policemen will not sensationalize these crimes," he said.

But the blunder occurred under Luga's predecessor, Chief Supt. George Aliño.

"We assume the blame for the labeling, of course, yet operational documents at Camp Dangwa normally identify suspects or crime organizations using the name of their supposed leader. We coded this crime group as the Malidum Group after its leader John Malidum Jr., who is from Sagada.

Police arrested the 12 suspects in Benguet and Pangasinan for robberies that took place in Northern Luzon. *Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Dads declare BIR exec 'persona non grata'

BAGUIO CITY—Officials here declared the regional director of the Bureau of Internal Revenue as *persona non grata* Wednesday for her failure to coordinate with the city government the compromise agreements that she entered into with Baguio-based multinational industries on their tax deficiencies.

During their regular session on Wednesday, the city councilors also asked Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno to immediately transfer BIR Cordillera Director Estrella Martinez to another assignment.

Nine councilors voted for the declaration while one rejected it..Four other councilors abstained from voting.

"Martinez has become a *persona non grata* by her repeated infidelity to her public commitments advantageous to the city . . . by her pronouncements that demonstrate hostility, if not indifference, to the interest of the city where her agency operates," the resolution read.

In the resolution, the council said Martinez's effectiveness as a responsible public official was diminished when she failed to coordinate tax collection functions with the city government. The agreements, the council said, had reduced the share of the city from the tax collections.

The INQUIRER called Martinez's office on Thursday but was informed that she was in Manila. Martinez, her secretary said, was given a copy of the city council resolution.

Graft

But Vice Mayor Betty Lourdes Tabanda, who presided over the session, clarified that they were not accusing Martinez of graft.

"We are not saying that there is fraud or graft and corrupt practices committed by Director Martinez. We are only saying that the city needs a director who coordinates with city officials before doing anything that might later prejudice the city," Tabanda said.

The city officials claimed that Martinez had entered into a compromise agreement with the Bay Sports Manufacturing Inc. in the Philippine Economic Zone Authority here, which reduced the city's supposed 2-percent share from the tax collections.

The agreement, the councilors said, reduced the firm's 1999 tax assessment from P1.1-million to only P270,000.

Tabanda, however, said Martinez, as BIR director, has the authority to enter into compromise agreements anytime, "provided that she should coordinate with the city because our interest over the subject of the agreement is at stake."

Lapses

The resolution said Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan and Mayor Bernardo Vergara had called the attention of Martinez on the lapses on the compromise deal but the director failed to act on these.

Retiring schoolteachers have also joined the city council in calling for the transfer of Martinez.

In a statement, the teachers criticized Martinez for recalling the release of their tax refunds from 1991 to 1999.

The teachers went to the BIR office on Sept. 24 after being notified that their tax refunds worth P10.66 million had been approved and deposited at the Land Bank of the Philippines.

However, BIR personnel informed them that Martinez recommended for the recall.

"Excess taxes withheld by the employer due to failure or refusal to file the withholding exemption certificates and giving of false and inaccurate information shall be forfeited in favor of the government," Martinez, in a memorandum to Parayno on Sept. 12, said.

"Since this is a cash-starved BIR, tax refunds should be construed strictly and the recommendation for the recall should be given due course," she said.

"Please take note that we have been waiting for this tax refund for more than three years. It was an amount deducted from our salaries and was remitted to the BIR," the teachers said in their statement. *Jovelyn Reyes and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Case vs used, imported cars junked

THE OLONGAPO Regional Trial Court junked the petition of major car dealers seeking to stop the registration of imported used vehicles.

In a four-page decision, Judge Eliodoro Ubiadas of Olongapo RTC Branch 27 ruled that the Philippine Automotive Association (PAA)—the biggest group of automotive franchise dealers in the country—is guilty of forum shopping in filing the case.

The PAA sued the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to prevent it from issuing certificates of registration to sellers and buyers of imported used vehicles from the Subic Bay freeport.

It alleged in its complaint that the continued registration of these vehicles by the LTO violates the law, 'specifically RA 8506 which bans the entry of right-hand-drive vehicles into the country.

Ubiadas, however, upheld the LTO's defense that it is not registering RHDs. The LTO stressed that the vehicles brought to its offices are already converted to left-hand-drive, hence cannot be considered illegal. It also pointed out that LTO inspectors check the safety and emissions of these vehicles before they issue certificates of registration.

The judge took offense on the fact that the case filed by PAA has already been dismissed by a Quezon City court in August.

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It's race against time to deal with El Niño

DUMAGUETE CITY—Government line agencies in Negros Oriental are racing against time to help ease the effects of the El Niño phenomenon in the province.

Dexter Patrocinio, provincial head of the National Irrigation Administration, said that Negros Oriental is 68 percent sufficient in water, they would still close their outlets at night to save on water.

Patrocinio said a total of 10,000 hectares of ricelands have already been irrigated in Negros Oriental.

Bert Amor of the National Food Authority said they have ample rice stocks to last for several months. Negros Oriental has been importing most of its rice needs from other provinces.

In Bohol, which was listed as among the areas to be hardest hit by the El Niño, Gov. Erico Aumentado gave assurances that the province has already put in place measures to ease the drought's effects.

Aumentado said as early as April, they created the Bohol Provincial Task Force, an interagency body that prepared plans to ensure the protection of poor farmers from impending calamities.

Aumentado said Department of Agriculture (DA) regional director Jose Quitazol has assured a counterpart funding of P2.1 million for cloud-seeding operations.

The preparation was extended throughout Central Visayas since he also chairs the Regional Development Council (RDC-7), Aumentado said.

The RDC 7, in its September meeting, passed a resolution requesting the DA and the Philippine Air Force to conduct cloud-seeding operations in Bohol and throughout the region.

Water for the farms were also being secured with the provincial government entering into a new memorandum of agreement with the National Irrigation Administration, through regional manager Alexander Reuyan, for the establishment of additional irrigation facilities in Bohol.

"Whatever it is, contingency plans are laid in advance and if urgent need arises, we have the reserved P26 million provincial calamity funds that we could immediately harness to protect our agricultural and economic productivity programs," the governor said.

Scientists have already noted a gradual increase in sea temperatures in the central, eastern and equatorial Pacific, as a prelude to the El Niño phenomenon expected to affect the country starting this month until the first quarter of next year.

El Niño happens usually once in five years. *Alex Pal and Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Rights group to sue military for detaining rebel suspects

CEBU CITY—The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) will file cases against Philippine Army's 78th Infantry Battalion commander Lt. Col. Jonas Sumagaysay for torture and illegal detention in a military court.

TFDP national board officials yesterday said they were taking the cudgels on the case on behalf of the farmers in Catmon, Cebu whose rights were allegedly violated by Sumagaysay and his men.

Sumagaysay was accused of detaining farmers Edgar Duran, Noe Molde, Elbin Colinares and Nestor Lumbab at the 78th IB camp in Sogod, Cebu early last month on suspicion that they were rebels.

Judge Sylva Paderanga of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 25 in Danao City, however, dismissed on Sept. 30 the writ of *habeas corpus* petition filed against Sumagaysay after the lawyer Poch Cinco, legal counsel of a militant farmers group that filed the complaint, failed to attend the hearing on time.

Sumagaysay has maintained that the four alleged former rebels chose to live in the camp.

But Dr. Aurora Parong, TFDP executive director, said they would not drop the case and would file charges against the military men.

Rico Nuñez, TFDP head for Central and Eastern Visayas, said among the alleged violations committed by Sumagaysay were illegal search and seizure, arbitrary arrest and detention, threats and harassment, physical abuse and torture, coercion, forced interrogation, and summary executions. *Lino Parone Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Editor Jun Bandayrel ● Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Lost meanings in Biliran

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Naval, Biliran

SO, what's in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet, according to Shakespeare. But then, a rose is different from *panamao* or *biliran*, two old words whose root meanings have been lost to most native speakers of the Visayan language.

We shall attempt to clarify the origin of the two words that had been reduced to mere place-names, both of which had been used to identify the island north of Leyte that has the shape of an inverted heart.

Panamao is the former name of the island that is now Biliran, the youngest province in Eastern Visayas.

The word *panamao* was described as a fishing net in an old Visayan dictionary, the Vocabulario de la Lengua Bisaya, compiled by a Jesuit priest, Mateo Sanchez, in Dagami town in Leyte in 1615-17.

Of course, there are various types of fishing nets, each named according to their use or function. For instance, *pukot* is the general term for nets that catch fish by their gill. *Baling* is specific to the bag net which is spread along the sea near the beach and entraps fish inside a bag-like compartment after its two ends are pulled toward dry land by fishing teams.

Stupid fish

Panamao is presently pronounced as "*pa-na-maw*," but it is possible that this word was originally pronounced "*pan-amaw*." *Panamao* might have been a net specifically intended to catch a fish species called *amaw* (i.e., naive or stupid). If the round shape of Mount Panamao has some resemblance at all to the original net, then this fishing instrument might have been a wide-mouthed and shallow version of the present *sibot* (dip net).

Modern Visayans have a hard time identifying various species of fish or even differentiating *tulingan* (bonito) from *tangigue* (tuna).

Some native fish names have also given way to Spanish names, or even Tagalog ones. Certainly, former President Corazon Aquino's *galunggong* is known as *hasa-hasa* in the Visayas.

Amaw appears to be the same fish now known as *tonto* (i.e., Spanish for stupid) in fancy restaurants. This large fleshy fish makes good and delicious *sinugba* (broiled fish). *Tonto* is known to be a tame fish, not very hard to catch. It is said that they often swim about in pairs. When one of a pair is caught, the other becomes easy to catch. In human logic, the *amaw* fish must be *tonto* indeed to be so easily caught.

Sea change

The meaning of the word *biliran* underwent a lot of sea change since its mention in an entry in the Sanchez dictionary. The more famous meaning came from the late Justice Norberto Romualdez around the turn of the previous century.

Romualdez had theorized that the name Biliran was derived from a grass called "*borobiliran*." This misleading theory continues to be propagated by recent publications.

Sanchez originally defined the word *bilir* as follows: "also *biliran* or *bildan*. Corner or edge of a boat, vase or anything protruding like veins, or the furrow made by the plow."

The definition strongly suggests that biliran referred to the hull at the bottom of a boat, which produces "furrows" on the water when in motion.

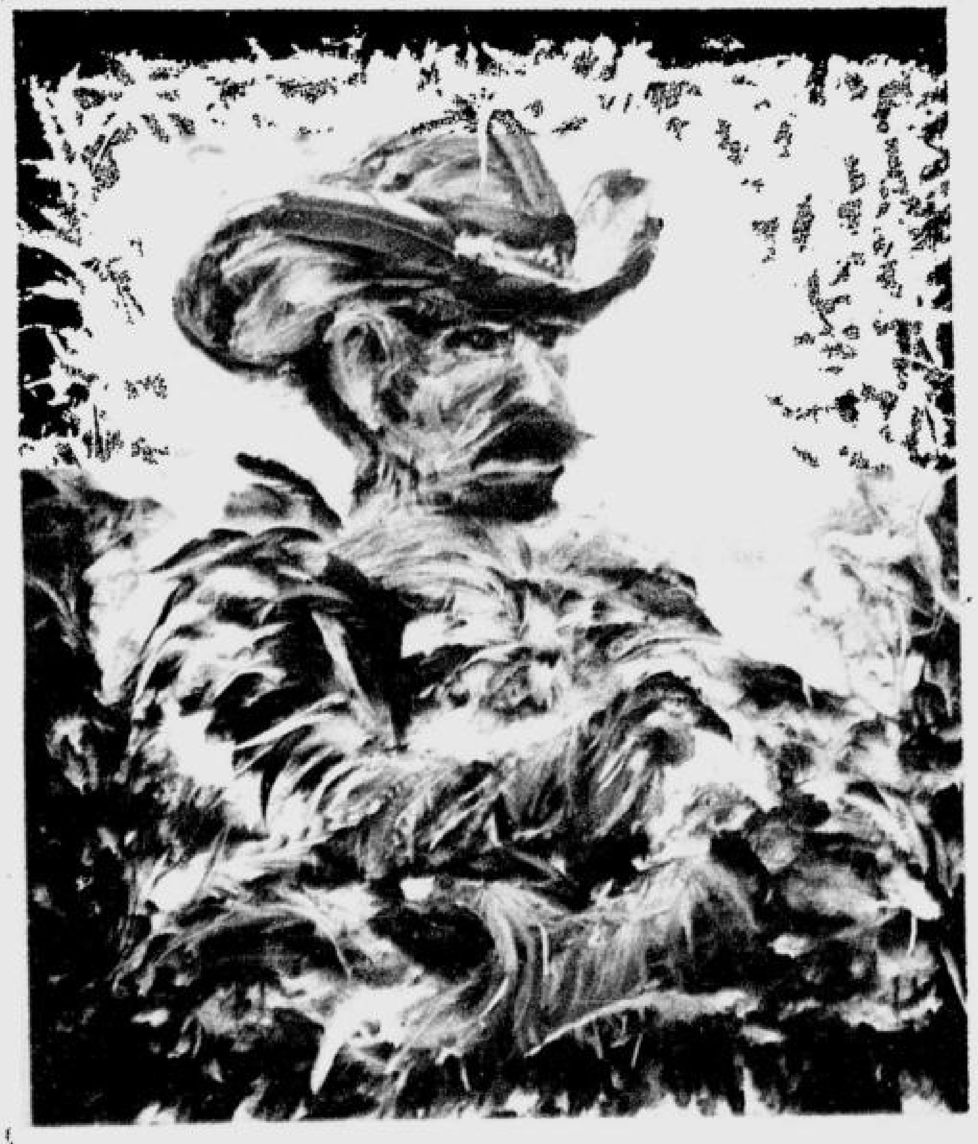
Coincidentally, the former Panamao Island was the site of the first large-scale Spanish shipyard in the Philippines from the 1580s to the early 1600s. The reference to these galleons built on the island might have been the basis for the name-change to Biliran Island in later decades, probably starting around the 1680s.

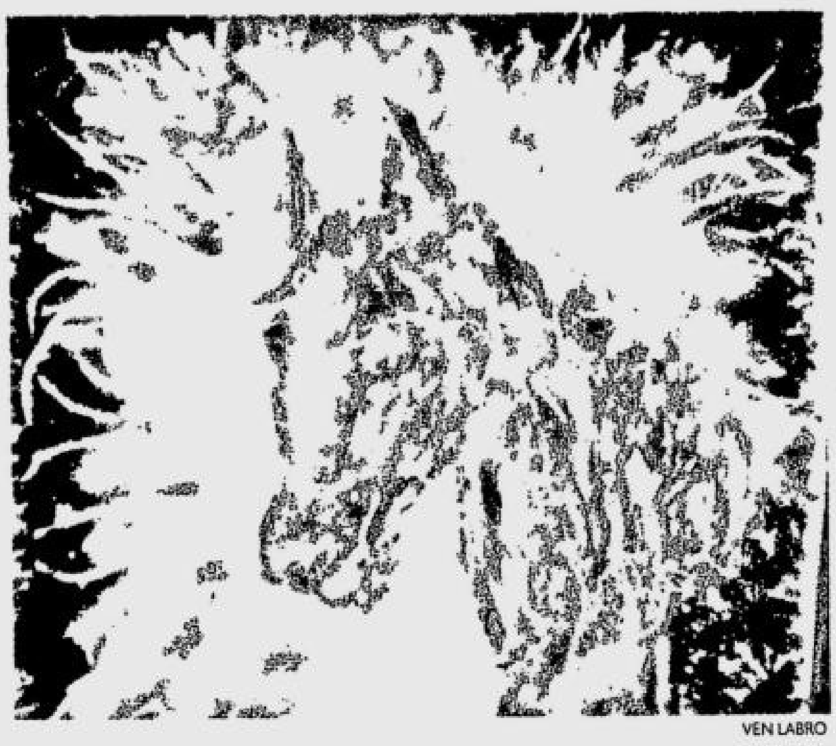
The change of names from Panamao to Biliran was possibly influenced by the catastrophic eruption of the Panamao Volcano around 1669. The natives probably decided the name-change on the belief that this would waylay the bad spirits in the destructive volcano.

Sense of history

So, what's in *panamao* and *biliran*? A lot, in terms of history and culture. From a fishing net to a part of a boat, both words now lead us to people, the present inhabitants of Biliran province.

The inhabitants could now make sense of the lost meanings of *panamao* and *biliran*. With a fuller knowledge and understanding of this aspect of their identity, they could help figure out a hopeful future for their province.





VEN LABRO

PHOTO COURTESY OF LEO VILLAFLOR

"Sabungero," above, a feather mosaic done by Leo Villaflor of Tacloban City. Above right, a horse head feather mosaic, another work of Villaflor. This feather mosaic has to be framed and encased in glass. At right, Villaflor at work.

'Tuba' and colorful feathers make art

By Vicente S. Labro
Tacloban City

LEYTE'S famous *tuba*(coconut wine) painter has lately been putting feathers on his canvas. In fact, a lot of feathers have been added to complete his distinctive art work.

Leo Villaflor has once again proven that there are a lot of indigenous materials that Filipino artists can make use of in doing mixed media visual arts.

At present, he is into what he called "feather mosaic," which he believed is the first of its kind in Eastern Visayas and probably in the whole country.

Villaflor, 59, has been making use of native materials in his art works for over a decade. Aside from *tuba*, he has used—in lieu of paint or ink—indigenous natural dyes, pounded *barok* (tanbark used for *tuba* coloring) or dried tobacco leaves mixed with a small amount of water, squid ink and soot, among others.

This time, his medium has become lighter.

Villaflor first experimented on feather mosaic in May, after a colorful feather duster inside a store in Tacloban City fascinated him, mainly because of its array of colors. "I told myself that this could be made into an impressionist art work," he recalled.

He believed that with feathers having different colors, a mosaic could be made, depending on their arrangement on canvas.

The artist got the idea from the impressionist paintings that make use of bold brush strokes, he said. So, with several feather dusters on hand, Villaflor started experimenting on feather mosaic.

And it was not surprising that his first subject in this kind of art work was a rooster being carried by a man sporting a mustache. Weeks after, his art work, "Sabungero" or cockfight aficionado, was completed.

A couple of months ago, he brought his piece to Manila to show and solicit comments from close friends within the artists' circle, and they all encouraged him to pursue his work.

Villaflor returned to Tacloban in high spirits, leaving behind the "Sabungero" in the care of a cousin-priest. He recently learned that the art work now hangs temporarily in a museum of a seminary.

Nude woman

His next subject for a feather mosaic was a horse, and his latest, a nude woman. He was in the thick of "dressing up" a nude woman on canvas with colorful feathers when this writer came to interview him. Beside the artist were a pair of scissors, bottles of glue, and some dusters from where he plucks his medium of different colors.

He said he had to treat the feathers with a chemical to prevent mold from forming.

Villaflor has no problem regarding the availability of his new medium. Even if the local stores run out of feather dusters, he can easily buy chicken with his chosen feather color—*ugis* (white), *pula* (red), *talisayon* (white and yellow), *balao* (black and yellow), *lakton* (white with black dots), etc.

He, however, stressed that it was not true that he was into *tuba* painting and feather mosaic so he could host a drinking session, making use of the leftover native wine and dressed chicken as "*sumsuman*" (*pulutan* in Tagalog).

Getting serious now, Villalor pointed out that "we could see in that our surroundings (that) there are really a lot of available materials for art works, for visual arts."

He said it was his quest for a Filipino identity in his art work that prompted him to use the indigenous materials. But he admitted that another reason he shifted to *tuba* and other native materials was because of the high cost of art materials, like oil paint.

Villaflor started experimenting with *tuba* in the late 1980s. In 1990, a visiting theater manager from London became fascinated with his unique medium and bought one of his paintings. Later, he learned that his work was displayed in a London museum.

In 1994, a Dutchman persuaded him to have his *tuba* paintings exhibited in Amsterdam. All his 25 art works were bought there.

During the Philippine centennial celebration in 1998, Villaflor was invited to join the "100 Years 100 Artists: An Expression of the Filipino Soul" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Introduced as "Leyte's *tuba* painter," Villaflor presented a painting of a Spanish-era house that still stands today in Carigara, Leyte. The house was as unique as his medium—its main posts were all exposed.

Stretching imagination

Aside from painting and mosaic art, Villaflor has ventured into sculpture, terra cotta and other art disciplines.

As an artist, he said, he had to stretch his imagination on the possible medium and style to use. He once tried using bamboo sheets and coconut sheaths as canvases for his watercolor and *tuba* paintings.

And even as he has become preoccupied with feather mosaic, Villalfor has already been thinking of using other native materials. He may try crab shells or seashells next time, he said.

Villaflor, who once earned a living as a salesman, started painting before reaching 40 years old. He had no formal schooling in art, but in 1979, he was able to sit in for five Saturdays in a class of Cebu master artist Mariano Abellana at the University of the Philippines-Cebu College of Fine Arts.

The training further developed his innate talent.

To this late bloomer artist, nothing can stop him from doing what he loves most—making art works out of indigenous materials.

How to keep 'god' happy

BREAKAWAY

Ivan Suansing

HOW do you keep god behind bars? By keeping him happy, according to officials of the Cebu City jail.

Thus they gave Ruben Ecleo Jr., the supreme master of Dinagat Island, all the prison perks ever known to VIP inmates:

A special cell with a comfortable bed and an electric fan to keep him safe and fresh. Well-placed curtains to guarantee his privacy in a place where people are packed like sardines. For entertainment, a TV set and CD music, and—as reporters found out last week after paying him a surprise visit—a warm, young, willing and able angel to play scrabble with.

At his beck and call, jail personnel showed they were ripe for recruitment into the divine association of Dinagat. Their prisoner, the all-powerful and omnipresent Ecleo, had become their master.

But as usual, there were nosy reporters to screw things up.

When the scribes blew the whistle on Ecleo's cozy lifestyle in jail, higher officials sent his protectors packing, and him to his new home, a concrete water tank now reserved for isolation prisoners.

Too much

Published in local papers, the photo of the water tank—cramped, hot and suffocating—proved too much for Ecleo. On the way to the water tank, Ecleo suddenly complained of "chest discomfort, difficulty in breathing, numbness of extremities and chilly sensation." After a careful examination by resident jail doctors, he was rushed to the hospital.

But wait a second. There are no resident doctors at the city jail, perhaps only quack doctors who are charged with "malpractice" for deflowering virgins.

His followers swear Ecleo himself has healing powers. Have you heard of anyone from Dinagat fall sick? They would die for a drop of Ecleo's perspiration, preferably from his shiny pate, or his cigarette butts because these would cure them. Yes, Ecleo can heal anyone, except himself.

Nerves. It turned out to be nothing but an anxiety attack. No sooner had Ecleo settled down in the Intensive Care Unit of the Cebu City Medical Center did doctors, the real ones this time, pronounce him out of danger. Their finding: "hyperventilation syndrome secondary to anxiety reaction."

Nerves. There was no trace of "hypertension," the official diagnosis of quacks and excuse of jail personnel. The Dinagat lord passed all medical tests in a breeze.

Lost privileges

The doctors did see pneumonia developing, something that would require no more than a dose of common antibiotics. Ecleo was dismissed as an outpatient case.

Miraculously, he was allowed to stay in the hospital for a couple more days. When he was brought back to the city jail, Ecleo was stripped of his prison privileges.

Mercifully, his water tank vacation had been cancelled, and he found himself in the company of a prison celebrity, his newfound friend, Engilberto Durano, the former most wanted man in Central Visayas.

While Ecleo only lost his privileges, some jail officials stand to lose more. Relieved warden Lita Quilaton and her top assistants will be investigated for allegedly accepting bribe from inmates in exchange for special favors.

In addition, they face the ire of a judge for bringing Ecleo out of the jail without securing a court permit.

Quilaton admitted to giving Ecleo special treatment because he was a "prison officer" and needed to continue "healing" people. She showed no remorse. Welcome to the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association.

Ecleo, 42, was captured on June 19 after government forces raided his hilltop lair on Dinagat Island in Surigao del Norte. Sixteen PBMA members died defending their supreme master, who is accused of strangulating his wife Alona Bacolod-Ecleo last January.

Ecleo is also a prime suspect in the massacre of four Bacolod clan members in Barangay Subangdaku, Mandaue City, shortly before the Dinagat bloodbath.

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  Cabanatuan City
- 3 South Luzon Winners
  Nestlé Philippines
  Barangay 47, Arimbay, Legaspi City
- 3 Visayas Winners
  APMC, Door 1, Mercedes Arcade
  M.C. Briones St., Mandaue City
- 3 Mindanao Winners
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ANIMALS arrive with the first batch of civilian settlers on Pag-asa, which has been under Philippine administrative control since 1973, which offer a new experience for members of the Philippine Navy-Special Warfare Group. DENNIS SABANGAN

RP isles named after heroes

ASIDE from the nine areas in the Kalayaan island group already occupied by the Philippines, others being claimed by Manila are the following islets, reefs, shoals and cays, mostly named after Filipino heroes: Arellano (or Alicia Annie Reef); De Jesus (Allison Reef); Antonio Luna (Ardasier Bank); Mascardo (Barque Canada Reef); Abad Santos (Bombay Shoal); Rajah Soliman (Boxall Reef); Kayumanggi (Brown Banks); Osmeña (Cornwallis South Reef); Calderon (Cuarteron Reef); Paredes (Discovery Great Reef); Burgos (Discovery Small Reef); Malvar (Eldad Reef); Gabriela Silang (Erica Reef); Gomez (Fiery Cross Reef); Pawikan (Investigator Shoal); Balagtas (Irving Reef); Quirino (Jackson Atoll); Mabini (Johnson Reef); Quezon (London Reefs); Gitna (Central Reef); Silangan (East Reef); Kanluran (West Reef); Bisugo (Lys Shoal); Mariveles Reef; Lakandula (Menzies Reef); Panganiban (Mischief Reef); Binago (Namyit Is.); North Danger Reef; Hizon (Pearson Reef); Sabina (Sabina Shoal); Rurok (Sir Cowe Is.); Bonifacio (Southampton Reef); Zamora (Subi Reef); Tizard Bank and Reefs; Tatlong Tulis (Trident Shoal); and Gomez (Western Reef)

Cafgus to secure RP-claimed Spratly isles

From page A1

(Commodore) and Ayungin (LT 57), and the islets Parola (Northeast Cay), Lawak (Nanshan), Panata (Lankiam Cay), Kota (Loaita), Likas (West York) and Patag (Flat).

Due to "funding problems," the Navy cannot afford to deploy regular troops, according to Capt. Roger Flora, chief of staff of the Naval Forces West, which is based in Puerto Princesa City.

"Cafgus are the best alternative," Flora told the INQUIRER. The Navy officer led the Armed Forces command's latest civic-military mission to the Spratlys—transporting the first batch of civilian settlers to the municipality of Kalayaan and troops assigned in the nine military posts there.

Extra money

Kalayaan Mayor Rosendo Mantes, a former commanding officer of the Pag-asa naval station, has agreed to help the Navy hire Cafgus for posting in the areas claimed by other Asian countries.

"Then the Navy will handle their training," Flora said, noting the militiamen "will be our eyes and ears in the other areas (claimed by the Philippines)."

Another Navy officer said "maintaining troops in the Spratlys is very costly. I'm sure everyone knows the Armed Forces is financially troubled. Maintaining Cafgus, on the other hand, will cost much less. They get only P1,800 in subsistence allowance. But they can make extra money (in Kalayaan) by engaging in fishing activities while being stationed there."

Flora pointed out that Cafgus had been "tried and tested in the military's campaign against communist and secessionist rebels."

"At least two companies (composed of 200 men) of Cafgus are ideal for Kalayaan," Flora added.

Early this week, Mantes told this reporter the Kalayaan municipal government would take an "active role" in the country's claim over the Spratlys.

"We should assert our right over those territories which belong to us," said the former Navy officer. Mantes recalled that in the mid-1990s, then President Fidel Ramos had ordered the strengthening of military presence in the areas claimed by the Philippines.

The Spratlys consist of 12 main islands and 390 islets, banks, reefs, shoals and cays, of which only 36 permanently rise above the South China Sea and only seven of these have an area of more than 0.5 square kilometers.

The Philippines and five other nations—China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei—lay claim to all or parts of the archipelago. Of these claimants, all—except Brunei—maintain a military presence on one or more islands.

Rich oil deposits

The Philippines is looking to tap an estimated 6 billion barrels of oil deposits (or its natural gas equivalent) under the Spratlys and a potential 225 billion barrels of oil under the South China Sea.

The rich offshore oil deposits are within the country's continental shelf, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Last Wednesday, the Navy's landing ship tank BRP Laguna (LT 501) recovered a light buoy with Chinese markings near the Jackson Reef, about 36 miles northeast of Mischief Reef.

The reef, which the Philippines calls the Panganiban Reef, is 150 miles west of the island-province of Palawan.

The faded green-colored buoy, made of fiberglass materials and which looked like a "jumbo LPG tank," had been stripped of its "fragile parts," according to Lt. Nestor Yapit, captain of BRP Laguna.

Similar light buoys had been used as markers for structures built by other Spratly claimant countries, particularly China.

Jackson Reef is about 135 km to the northwest of Mischief Reef.

The Spratly islands have been the cause of several overheated tempers in the region, with China and Vietnam twice clashing over the island chain—in 1988 and 1992. On both occasions China emerged the victor.

'Creeping invasion'

In 1994, Beijing asserted its claim to the Spratlys, building two concrete structures at Mischief which sits within the economic zone claimed by the Philippines. Then Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado called the construction part of China's "creeping invasion."

In a show of resistance, the Philippine Air Force used the markers set up by the Chinese navy to guide its ships through the reefs and shoals for target practice. Also in 1994, the Navy rammed and sunk Chinese boats it encountered in Philippine waters.

At this writing, the BRP Laguna was about 18 hours away from the Ulugan Bay naval base on the western Palawan coast.

Media at sea

A media group, composed of this reporter and INQUIRER photographer Dennis Sabangan and news teams from GMA-7, ABS-CBN and RPN-9, left Puerto Princesa port last Sept. 22 aboard BRP Laguna for the Spratlys.

Two-and-a-half days later, the World War II-vintage logistics transport reached the Rizal reef detachment, also known as Commodore Reef, its first stop, where it unloaded troops and their supplies for the next two months.

In the early morning of Sept. 25, we made another stop, this time at Ayungin reef. The military has turned the Navy landing ship tank BRP Sierra Madre, which ran aground on the reef sometime in the late 1990s, into a military detachment. That same morning, at least three foreign fishing vessels, believed to be Chinese, were sighted several miles north of the disputed reef.

Shortly before noon the following day, the BRP Laguna which also carried the first batch of settlers to Pag-asa, headed by Mayor Mantes, reached the island which hosts a naval station and Air Force unit.

Last Sept. 30, the 328-foot long LST lifted anchor and proceeded Parola, about 28 miles to the north of Pag-asa. After relieving Navy personnel assigned in the islet, the BRP Laguna sailed for the military detachments in Panata and Kota, located some 30 miles southeast of Pag-asa.

From Kota, we sailed to Likas, about 42.7 miles to the northeast where a new set of troops were again deployed.

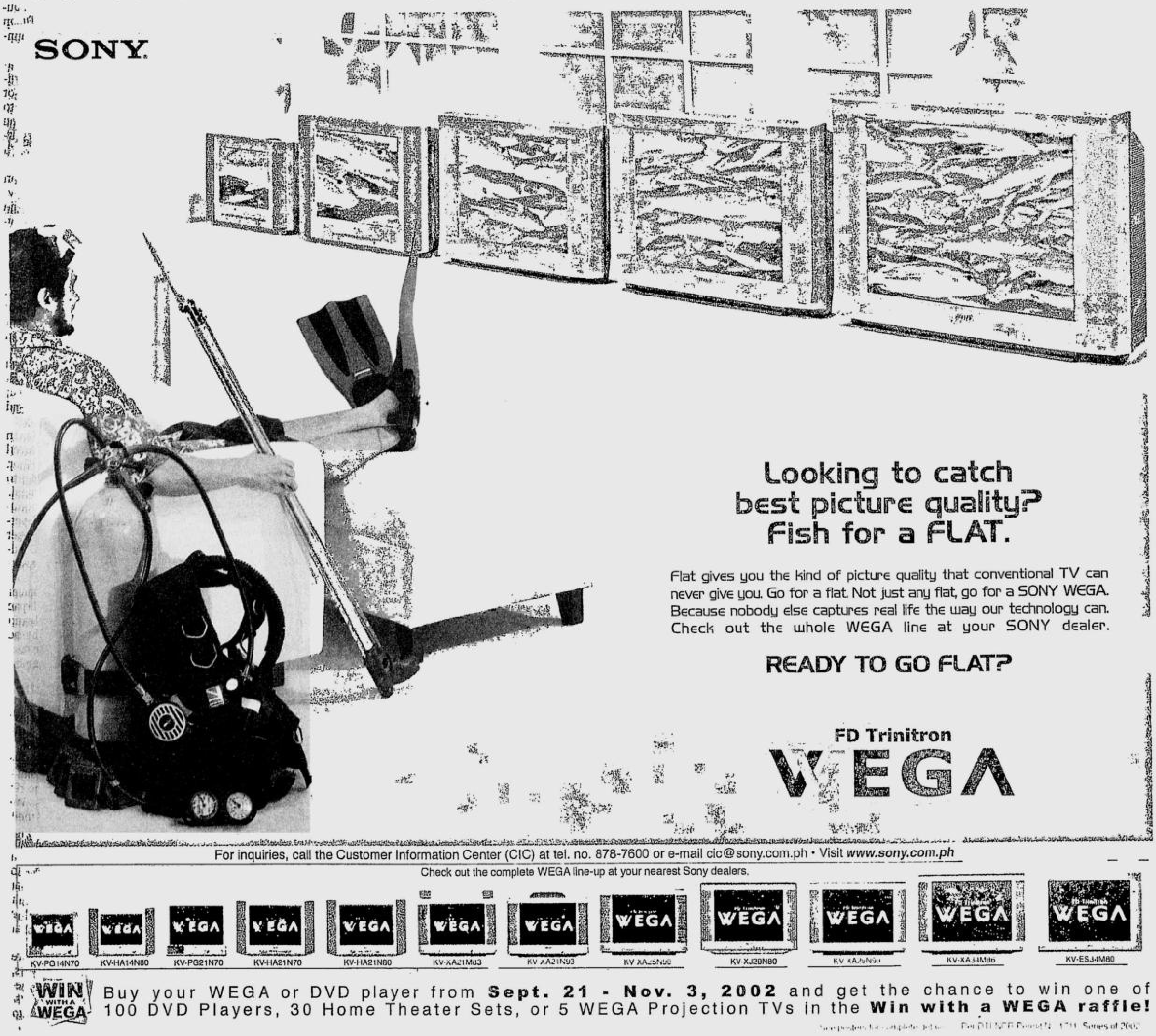
Patag islet, 54 miles southwest of Likas, was the Navy vessel's second to the last stop. From Patag, this reporter joined a team of the Navy's Special Warfare Group (Navy Seals) in a 30-minute rubber boat ride to Lawak.

Enthralled by seagulls

BRP Laguna executive officer Eric Gilbert Talavera, LTJG Romel Marcos and other BRP Laguna officers were right. Lawak does not only provide sanctuary for some of the country's seabirds; just like the other South China Sea features being claimed by the country, "it is one islet you may never want to leave."

In Lawak, we were immediately enthralled by the presence of thousands of seagulls and other seabirds.

The beehive of seabird activity before our eyes (and while feasting on boiled seagull eggs), a fellow newsman remarked: "In the Hitchcock movie, The Birds, they're scary. Here, it's fun watching them."



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Soldiers did it, says freed GMA reporter

From page A1

Lorenzo said Hadja Leng had offered to take him to the Indonesians' abductors so he could do an exclusive story on the state of the captives.

"I was not convinced during her first two attempts," he said. "On Saturday, she came back for a third attempt. I thought it would not push through but when she showed how determined she was, I became convinced."

This was how he narrated the abduction:

On Sept. 28, Lorenzo and Ordiales tailed Hadja Leng's vehicle bound for Indanan.

When they reached Barangay Bato-bato, Hadja Leng's military escorts and an elderly man rode with them in their vehicle.

The man turned out to be Abubakar of the MNLF, whose surrender to the military Hadja Leng had facilitated.

On the way to Barangay Kagay, Abubakar excused himself. He said that the two soldiers would accompany them to their destination, and that he would follow later.

As soon as they arrived in Kagay, the soldiers told Lorenzo that they should wait for Hadja Leng.

"We got off the vehicle (and) walked with our driver, Ammil Paradji," Lorenzo said. "Apparently, our driver sensed that something was wrong and asked to be left behind to check on the vehicle. We continued (walking)."

At the end of the road, Lorenzo decided to wait for the driver to catch up. It was at this point that the soldiers cocked their firearms and announced a holdup.

The soldiers ordered Lorenzo and Ordiales to hide in the tall grass.

One of the soldiers got his backpack and the other covered his face with a stocking. Then they ordered Ordiales to tie Lorenzo's hands with a nylon rope.

"I really got scared," Lorenzo said. "I thought they were our protectors. And they started to open our bags. They took my cell phone, calling cards, notebooks, tape recorders and the handy camera. Some of our belongings were left by the roadside."

The soldiers then entrusted Lorenzo and Ordiales to some locals, who were forced to take them in.

"They seemed to be so afraid of the two men in uniform that brought us in," lorenzo said. "In fact, some of them were so apologetic and kept on telling us that they did not want this turn of events."

On Oct. 3, their keepers decided to free them.

Irritated

Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Armed Forces' Southern Command, appeared irritated at reports linking Hadja Leng to the abduction.

At the press conference Thursday wherein Lorenzo and Ordiales were presented, a reporter raised the matter of Hadja Leng's military escorts but Carolina cut off the question by saying that it was time for the former captives to take their flight to Manila.

Tolentino vouched for Hadja Leng, saying: "I know the woman because she has been our contact person and she has really helped the military since that November 2001 attack."

He added: "She has convinced many MNLF rebels to surrender, and all her information is A-1. I just think that we might be barking up the wrong tree if we implicate her."

But Lorenzo said he was positive of his charges.

"I want to have a one on one with her," he told the INQUIRER. "She was the one responsible for bringing me to the mountain, and with what I learned from my friends here and her denying any involvement, she has a lot of explaining to do."

Tried and tested

The safe release of Lorenzo and Ordiales has convinced GMA 7 that the government's "tried and tested formula" works.

The two men, accompanied by family members and GMA 7 executives and reporters, visited Malacañang yesterday afternoon and thanked President Macapagal-Arroyo, the AFP and the Philippine National Police. AFP chief of staff Benjamin Defensor and PNP deputy chief for operations Edgardo Aglipay were present at the meeting.

GMA 7 president and CEO Felipe Gozon thanked Ms Macapagal and her "hardworking" generals, and said he now believed in the government's formula.

"The system works," Gozon said, but added that they would not divulge the "trade secret."

Reporter Jessica Soho also thanked the President for ordering a news blackout on the abduction. "It made a big difference," she said.

Ms Macapagal, who has fully recovered from a sore throat, teased Lorenzo and Ordiales for being the story instead of covering it.

She said they now belonged to the group of journalists who got kidnapped by Moro bandits in the course of their work.

But Soho interjected: "But ma'am, we've never paid a single centavo."

Lorenzo said he felt very lucky to get out of a "horrible experience."

He said that while in captivity, he and Ordiales sensed their keepers' fear at being pressured by military forces.

The President told them not to venture into suspected bandits' lairs again. She said such media activities only hampered military operations against bandits.

Malacañang first mentioned its "tried and tested formula" last month after the recovery of the two kidnapped children of Negros Occidental Rep. Jules Ledesma.

Authorities also attributed the recovery of the four kidnapped Mindanao State University teachers to that formula.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the community's cooperation and a news blackout were part of the formula.

He said the formula did not involve paying ransom. *With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

Another blast prompts tighter Zambo security

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Security here was tightened further yesterday with a second bomb exploding in front of the local Chapel of Christ sect Thursday night.

The second explosion occurred a day after the blast that killed an American Green Beret and two Filipino civilians. No one was injured in the second blast, police said.

Marines and Army troopers were deployed on the outskirts of the city while ordnance experts with bomb-sniffing dogs conducted random checks on vital installations and armored personnel carriers patrolled the city streets.

Vehicles passing through major avenues leading to the City Hall, a previous target of bombers, as well as the headquarters of the Armed Forces' Southern Command, were screened at various checkpoints.

Fears remained high that the Abu Sayyaf might stage similar attacks in the coming days as Zamboanga prepares to celebrate an annual fiesta honoring its patron saint next week.

Chief Insp. Vicente Salvador said the blast at the church was probably unrelated to the first explosion that also injured more than 20 others, including another US serviceman.

Col. Alexander Yapching, head of a special anti-terror task force in Zamboanga, said his forces had stepped up patrols in remote areas of the city and deployed Marines to Moro-populated areas. *AFP*

Paeng . . .

From page A1

NEPOMUCENO

and then waited anxiously for the result of their rivals' performance before they officially claimed the gold medal.

They beat Japan's Isao Yamamoto and Seiji Watanabe, who totaled 2670, triggering an almost hysterical euphoria for the Philippine delegation that had been longing for a gold medal in the past four days.

"This is for the Philippines," said Nepomuceno, four-time World Cup champion and the Philippines' most accomplished bowler. "I thank all our countrymen for their prayers in the Asian Games. We need all the help that we can muster for us to attain victory."

The 24-year-old Bautista, said: "I never expected this to happen to me. I'm just a newcomer here and this gold medal is the best thing that ever happened to me."

Lefties

Nepomuceno and Bautista are both lefties.

"We knew Paeng and RJ would win it," said Philippine Olympic Committee president Cito Dayrit. "That's why we rushed to the venue of the bowling competition to watch history unfold before our eyes."

Salvaging third place was the tandem of Kim Myung jo and Cho Mamae who combined for 2663.

Almost every official from the Philippine delegation wanted to make his own victory statement for the bowlers' victory, and Eric Buhain's piece was the most quotable.

"Filipinos' big fighting heart finally prevailed," said Buhain, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission. "I know the feeling because I was once a fierce competitor."

Buhain barely missed winning the gold in securing a silver in swimming some Asiads back.

The 42-year-old Nepomuceno spiked his six-game series with big numbers—279 in the second game and 248 in the third—as he finally ended an Asian Games jinx that began 12 years ago.

He won the silver medal in the 1994 in Hiroshima for his best previous finish in the Games.

Bautista complemented Nepomuceno's superb form by submitting big games, including his last three lines of 276, 231, 226 for a total of 1356, just two pinfalls short of Nepomuceno's 1358.

The bowlers' fine performance capped a day also highlighted by the Philippine basketball team's 83-69 destruction of Chinese-Taipei.

Basketball win

It was the Filipino cagers' fourth straight victory. They will have a three-day rest starting Saturday before they get their first real test: the match against title favorite China on Tuesday.

But golf suffered a minor setback when the men's team of Angelo Que, Jerome Delariarte, Juvic Pagunsan and Marlon Dizon played badly at the Asiad Country Club.

With Que, Delariarte and Pagunsan each shooting 77s and Dizon submitting a 78 that did not count, the team plunged to eighth place in team play. The quartet needs a miracle in Saturday's final round to salvage a bronze.

But Ria Denise Quiazon breathed life to the country's dying bid in ladies golf when she submitted an even par 72 to power the ladies team to third overall.

"We may have suffered some sad moments from the men's team but Ria's performance was today's delight," said Admiral Louie Fernandez, vice president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

In billiards, Antonio Lining and Warren Kiamco won their first 9-ball singles assignments, but snooker entries Marlon Manalo and James Ortega fell by the wayside.

Boxing lost another one when Fil-Am Christopher Camat bowed to a Pakistani. Harry Tanamor, though beat his Chinese rival to assure himself of a bronze medal.

The splendid form of Nepomuceno and Bautista and the basketball team's winning march offset setbacks absorbed by the Filipinos in baseball, fencing, shooting and bodybuilding.

"The good thing is, we never surrender," said Buhain. "The fighting spirit is always there and if only for that, we should be proud of our athletes."

134 solons now back Jimenez

From page A1

"Once upon a time, the law office of Secretary Perez represented Rodriguez and so it may not be surprising that his (extradition) case is not being prioritized while they are very eager in the case of Congressman Jimenez," Dilangalen said.

"The support is snowballing because the issue is not just the constitutional right of Congressman Jimenez but (also that of) every Filipino," said Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico who co-authored two pro-Jimenez resolutions with Representatives Willie Villarama and Prospero Pichay.

The House committees on justice and foreign relations held the first hearing on Tuesday on the resolutions seeking to inquire into the status of Jimenez in relation to the US request for his extradition.

The second hearing is scheduled for Tuesday. The 15-day period allowed Jimenez to appeal the Supreme Court decision canceling his P1 million bail which ends next week.

Villarama said the two resolutions gained the support of the majority of the 216 members of the House of Representatives because of the need to reexamine the extradition treaty.

Villarama noted that the Philippines was very eager to fulfill extradition requests of other countries but was having difficulties with its own requests.

Congressmen also want to amend the extradition law to allow Filipino citizens facing extradition to post bail.

TV survey favorable

Aside from a growing number of supportive congressmen, Jimenez was bouyed up by a television survey which supported the position of some congressmen to block Jimenez's imminent arrest.

In the GMA 7's "Debate," 379 or 62 percent of viewers believed that congressmen should prevent the arrest of their colleague.

Dilangalen noted that Rodriguez was represented by Balgos & Perez, the justice secretary's law firm, in the disqualification case filed before the Commission on Elections by his gubernatorial rival in Quezon province, Benny Marquez, in the 1992 elections.

At that time, Perez was still a congressman. The justice secretary was out of town yesterday and could not be reached for comment. He did not respond to a message in his voice mail.

But Dilangalen clarified that it was right for Rodriguez to be out on bail, which is what he and other congressmen are seeking for Jimenez.

In the first House hearing, officials of the Department of Justice admitted that Rodriguez's case was way ahead of Jimenez's but it had been tackled first in the Supreme Court after the DOJ opposed the bail granted him by the Manila Regional Trial Court.

Rodriguez and his wife are wanted in the US for insurance fraud. Jimenez is facing extradition for giving illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party, mail fraud and other offenses. He was elected Manila congressman last year.

Garchitorena's swan song: Call me FPJ

From page A1

Traditionally, justices who retire on schedule are feted to a formal program, with the other magistrates garbed in their courtroom robes and performing various ceremonies. These include the handing over of symbols of the office, like the gavel and a compilation of the retiree's decisions.

Also, as a matter of protocol, the Supreme Court chief justice is present as the guest of honor.

But none of that happened yesterday. Instead, the program was simply dubbed "Katuwaan for PJ Garchitorena."

In the audience was Garchitorena's estranged wife, Vicky, who used to head the Presidential Management Staff, and one of their children, Jaime, a former pop singer.

Garchitorena sang the nostalgic, thank-you piece "Handog" to reciprocate the farewell songs rendered by some members of the staff.

The casual lunchtime gathering had its share of poignant, uneasy moments given the circumstances leading to Garchitorena's premature retirement.

Garchitorena, 64, asked the Supreme Court last week to allow him to retire six years ahead of the mandatory retirement age. This was after he conceded that he could not meet the SC's Sept. 30 deadline for him to dispose of the backlog of cases at the Sandiganbayan First Division, which he also chaired.

The SC had relieved him of his post as presiding justice in November 2001.

The high tribunal granted his request for early retirement last Tuesday.

Delicadeza

In one of the testimonial speeches, Justice Raoul Victorino said Garchitorena's exit after heading the anti-graft court for 16 years "activated the doctrine of delicadeza."

"The premature resignation of Mr. Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena is more about self-respect than a sad experience . . . In the epic clash between conscience and convenience, PJ Francis chose conscience," Victorino said.

"Like any human being . . . PJ Garchitorena had his own faults and frailties. But intellectual dishonesty, betrayal of public trust and professional cowardice are not among them," he added.

In his farewell remarks, Garchitorena said that "many rocks were thrown at me, lightning bolts hit me . . . that's why I thought it inappropriate to make this a formal affair."

"*Meron akong hindi natupad at may mga pagpapaliwanag na hindi natanggap* (There were things I could not fulfill and explanations that were not accepted)," he said.

Many members of the audience were teary eyed.

His main achievement, Garchitorena said, was the fact that Sandiganbayan personnel became known for their discipline and professionalism under his watch. These were qualities that were noted by court visitors.

But Garchitorena said he only inherited the administrative skills of his predecessor, Manuel Pamaran.

Slain man no longer bombing suspect

From page A1

ga police director, yesterday said the identity of the motorcycle owner had been established. But he declined to reveal the supposed owner's name.

Police artists also released a sketch of the man who supposedly planted the bomb. The sketch was based on witnesses' accounts.

Yanga said the purported bomber was about 25 years old, between 5'3" and 5'4" in height, with kinky hair, regular build and brown complexion, and spoke Tagalog with a Tausug accent.

Military officials said the bomb was similar to an explosive earlier planted by the Abu Sayyaf in the port of Jolo two months ago. This, they said in separate interviews, was what convinced them that the Wednesday bombing was the handiwork of the Abu Sayyaf.

Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina told reporters in a phone interview that the bomb consisted of about five to six pounds of explosives placed in a tin can.

Carolina also cited a recent announcement of Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani. "Part of the statement was a threat that they were going to bomb American interests, so these were among (the pieces of) evidence that we got that would link this to the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Servando also said he had been told by a military officer based in Zamboanga City that several men of Abu Sayyaf commander Jainal Sali were spotted in the area prior to the bombing.

Chief Insp. Jose Bayani Gucela, intelligence chief of the Zamboanga City Police, confirmed that the identity of the motorcycle owner had been established.

He said their investigation was focusing on the evidence gathered at the scene of the blast.

But he refused to comment on the military's claim that the Abu Sayyaf pulled off the bomb attack.

Courage

Carolina, however, insisted that "all investigations and resulting evidence point to the Abu Sayyaf as the perpetrators."

He said only the Abu Sayyaf had the courage to plant the bomb considering the distance of the blast site from Camp Enrile.

Citing results of initial investigation, Carolina said the bomb was "either time-fused or ignited with a remote mechanism using a 9-volt battery."

He said it was the same type of explosive used by the bandit group in Sulu.

"They gave us the lead that they were working continuously in improving the manufacture of explosives," he said.

Gucela confirmed that US authorities were conducting a parallel investigation of the bomb attack that injured more than 20 people, including another Green Beret, Sgt. Mike Holmes.

He said members of Zamboanga's explosives unit had been working side by side with a composite team from the Post Blast of the US Naval Criminal Investigation Service based in Okinawa, Japan, the FBI, and the US Embassy.

Gucela said US investigators were using equipment to detect what types of chemicals were used in the manufacture of the explosive.

"The US team examines the recovered items," he said. "It's a give-and-take relation. We assist them in crime-scene processing. They need our troops to move around, but their technology is a real help to us here."

Gucela also said US experts were trying to reconstruct the evidence, "such as how the perpetrators activated the bomb."

Pagadian bombing

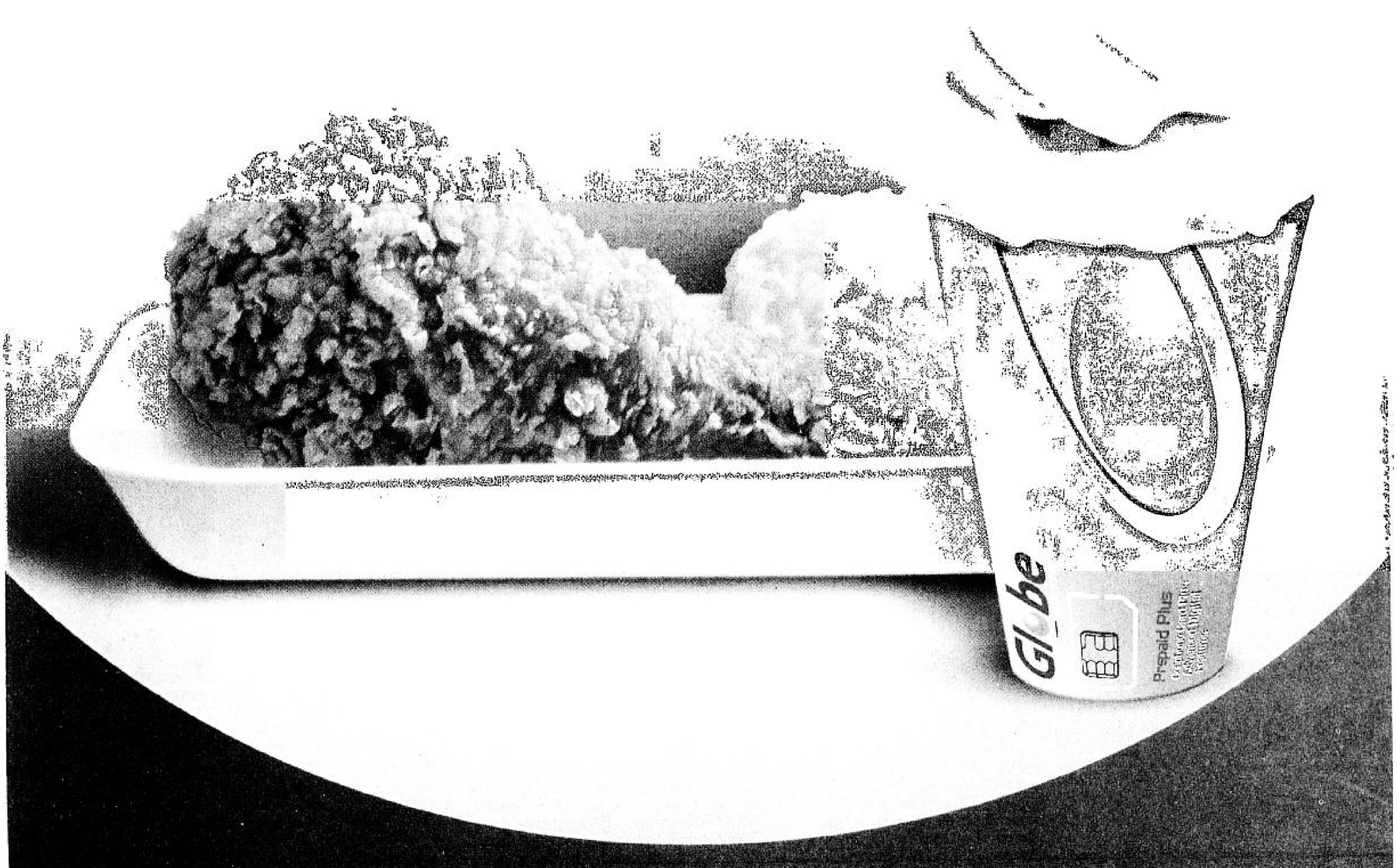
Director Ricardo de Leon, director for police community relations, said that based on the sketch, the bomber could be the same man who blew up a passenger bus in Pagadian City on Sept. 4 last year.

De Leon, however, said police investigators had yet to establish the identity of the bomber and the group that he was affiliated with.

"We are still ascertaining his identity," De Leon said. "That's why we have to wait for the results of the investigation. We don't want to compromise their follow-up operation."

De Leon stopped short of confirming that the bomber was a member of the Abu Sayyaf. "As to his link (to the Abu Sayyaf), that will have to be ascertained by our investigators. The investigators are zeroing in on one group. I'm not at liberty at revealing it," he said.

Asked if the bombings were perpetrated by foreign terrorists, he said: "It's one of the angles being looked into." *With reports from Ed General, PDI Mindanao Bureau; TJ Burgonio in Manila*



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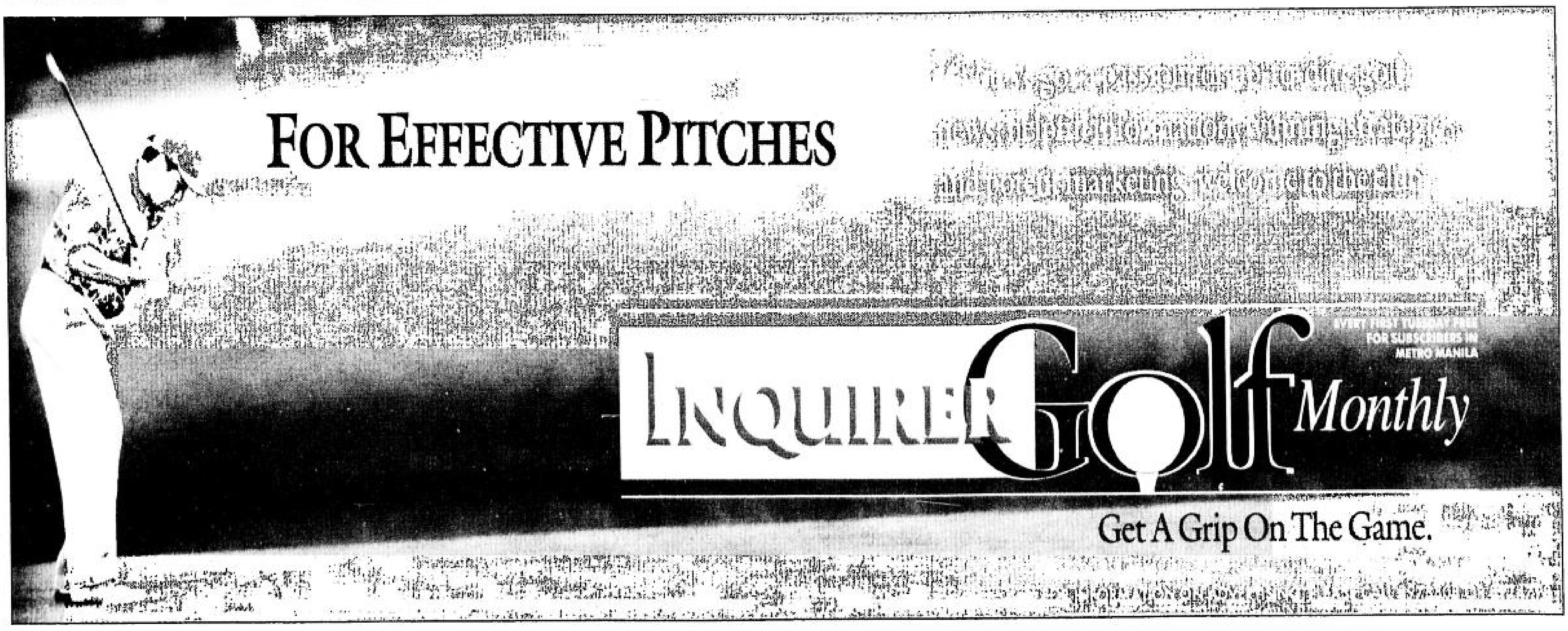
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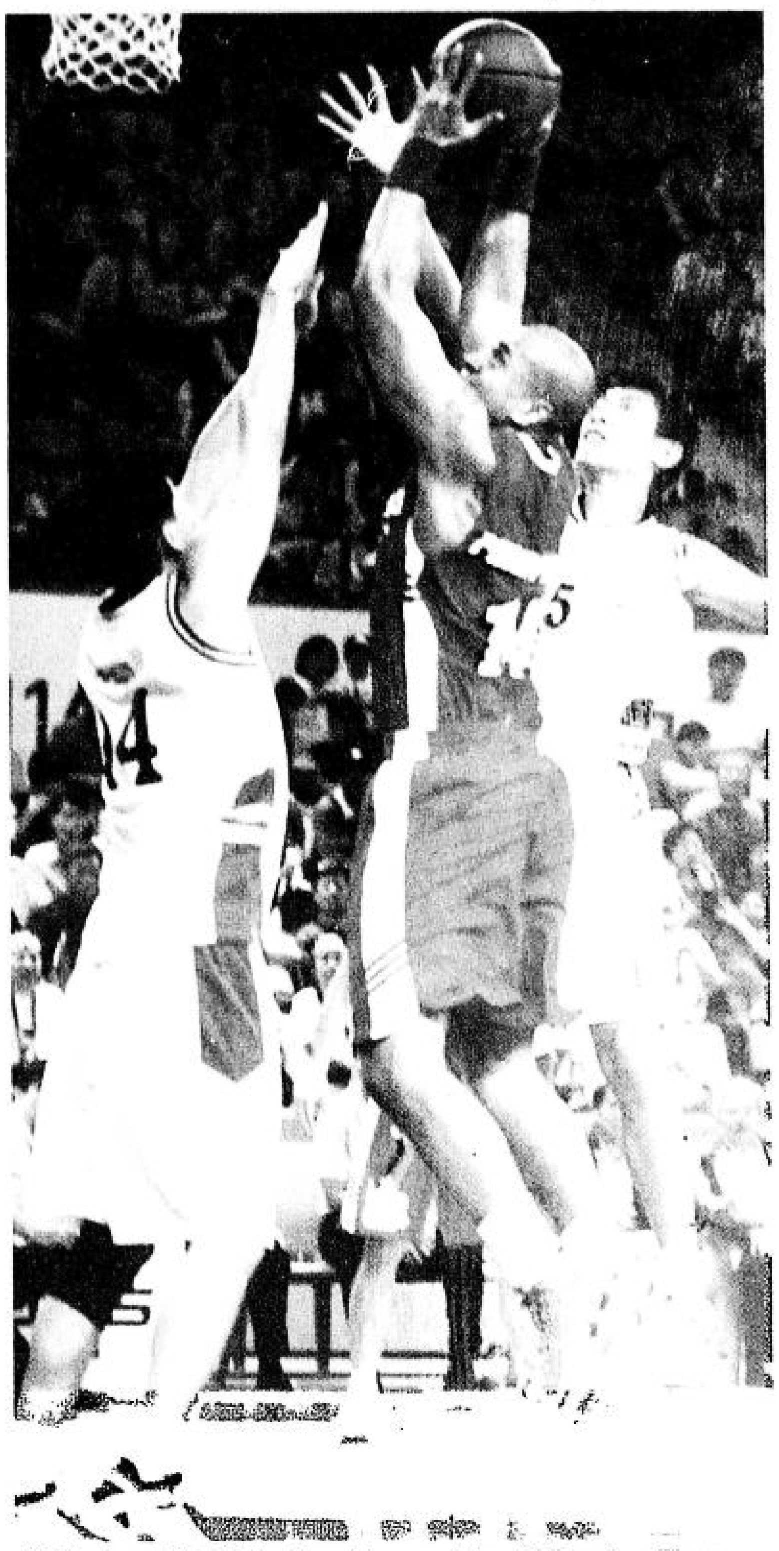

ASI Taulava of the Philippines drives past Rwu Chih-wei andTeeng Lien-ting of Chinese Taipei during their game yesterday. The Filipinos triumphed, 83-69. JESS YUSON

ASIAD BASKETBALL

RP dribblers down Taipei, collide with China 5 next

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—The Philippines beat Chinese Taipei, 83-69, in a manner as though it was ready to upset China in the Asian Games here.

Scoring in spurts and booming with triples, the Filipinos sped to margins of 18 and 20 points before slowing it down coming home.

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

It was their third easiest victory in four starts and, if only for hypothetical reasons, the Filipinos seemed ripe for the big battle against China on Tuesday.

Asi Taulava topscored anew for the Philippines with 18 points aside from grabbing 10 rebounds in 31 minutes of action.

Jeffrey Cariaso and Olsen Racela, the big heroes in RP's 79-74 victory over Japan on Wednesday, had 14 and 12 points respectively.

With under three minutes left, coach Jong Uichico fielded in his second stringers and Mick Pennisi, in his first chance at the hoop, fired a triple—one of RP's seven treys for the night.

Cariaso and Racela had two triples apiece and Dondon Hontiveros and Kenneth Duremdes one each for RP's balanced scoring.

Uichico said he was satisfied with his boys' performance, stressing that the win "already buried that big scare we had against Japan."

Added Uichico: "We have totally forgotten the game against Japan. We are now looking forward to the bigger battles ahead of us."

One such battle is against China on Tuesday.

Should the Filipinos score a monumental upset over the Chinese, their drive for the gold medal would be made easier as they have for a foe either Kazakhstan or Japan, or even North Korea in the crossover semifinals.

A loss to China would shove the Philippines most likely to a match against powerhouse South Korea—a matchup that might yet determine the final fate of the Filipinos, who are trying to improve on their third-place in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad.

Their victim in Bangkok was Kazakhstan behind the late-game heroics of Jojo Lastimosa.

"I keep telling the boys to be consistent all the time," said Uichico.

"They were not totally consistent today that's why I kept reminding them to keep playing well in every match. No way we could achieve our mission if we aren't focused on that."

The Filipinos' halftime lead of nine points, 43-34, was immediately jacked up to 19, 53-34, behind an opening 10-0 third quarter blast by Taulava and Cariaso, with Cariaso dropping six points on fastbreaks.

The last time Chinese Taipei had put up a

RP DRIBBLERS/ A26

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RAPID FIRE PISTOL

'Tac' shooting for glory

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla is lucky, he has a very supportive father in his pursuit of shooting glory in the 14th Asian Games.

Not only did his father, former Olympian Mariano "Tom" Ong accompanied him here, Tom also saw to it that Tac would not be disadvantaged when he begins his campaign in the 25-meter rapid fire pistol event at the Changwon International Shooting Range.

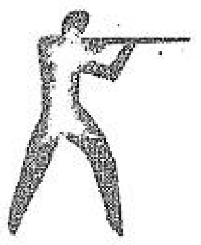
After finding out that travel time from the Athletes Village to the range is between 1 1/2 to 2 hours, Tom quickly transferred Tac to a hotel closer to the venue.

They've been there since Sept. 28 and Tac has benefited from the short distance he has to travel.

"I'm doing quite well in my practice rounds, but the Chinese are really something else," said Tac, a 36-year-old businessman from Malabon. "They're really world-class especially with the pistol and rifle."

Tac said he has set a modest target of third place, which would be a big leap from his ninth place finish in the Bangkok Asiad.

Also on tap for Tac, who co-owns the Spring Cooking Oil basketball team, is the center fire event on Monday and standard pistol on Tuesday.



Shooting

"I have to move him out of the Games Village, otherwise, *talo na agad*," said Tom, himself a seasoned internationalist.

Filipino shooters have yet to win a medal here, with Therese Cantada placing 24th in yesterday's women's pistol. Therese, sister of former national golfer Gerard and daughter of sportsman and junior golf patron, Boy, and earlier placed 19th in the women's 10m event.

RP SKED

Oct. 5, 2002
(Korea time, 1 hour ahead of RP time)

Swimming

10 a.m.—L. Danila, J. Guerrero, women's 400 indiv. med (heats); L. Dacanay, L. Danila, J. Guerrero, H. Ong, women's 4 x 100m med relay (heats); L. Danila, women's 800m free (finals). Note: Finals of women's 400m indiv. med and 4 x 100m med relay starts at 7 p.m.

Billiards

10 a.m.—M. Manalo, J. Ortega, snooker singles (qrtrfinal, depending on previous round results); W. Kiamco, A. Lining, 9-ball pool singles (qrtrfinal, depending on previous round results); E. Reyes, R. Grandea 3-cushion carom singles (prelim); 1 p.m.—Snooker singles (semifinals), 9-ball pool singles (qrtrfinal), 3-cushion carom singles (prelim)

4 p.m.—Snooker singles (3rd, 4th, finals), 9-ball pool singles (semifinal), 3-cushion carom singles (prelim)

7 p.m.—9-ball pool singles (3rd, 4th, finals), 3-cushion carom singles (prelim)

Bodybuilding

4 to 4:40 p.m.—A. Trazona Jr., 80 kg (finals)

Bowling

9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.—P. Nepomuceno, C. King, C. Suarez, E. Rivera, L. Rey Jr.,R. Bautista, trios (first 3-game block); 12:30 to 3 p.m.—L. del Rosario, C. Yap, L. Clutario, I. Garcia-Benitez, J. Canare, K. Lopez, women's tries (first 3-game block); 4 to 7:30 p.m.—Five players team, men (first 3-game block)

Boxing

2 p.m.—V. Payla vs D. Tulashbov, Uzbekistan, 51 kg (flyweight), first round

Cycling

10 to 10:20 a.m.—B. Dimacali, sprint (1/8 final round)

Golf

9 a.m.—J. Delariarte, M. Dizon, J. Pagunsan, A. Que, team/individual (3rd round); 10: 30 a.m.—H. Chua, R. Quiazon, C. Villaroman, team/individual (3rd round)

Sailing

11 a.m.—R. Balladares, R. Chavez, J. Villena, L. Taroja, all classes, (5th, 6th races)

Shooting

9 a.m.—N. Padilla, 25m rapid fire pistol (1st day)

Soft Tennis

9 a.m.—W. de Leon Jr., R. Paguyo, men's singles (prelim, qrtrfinal, semifinal, qualification 1st round for 5th-6th places, 3rd-4th places)

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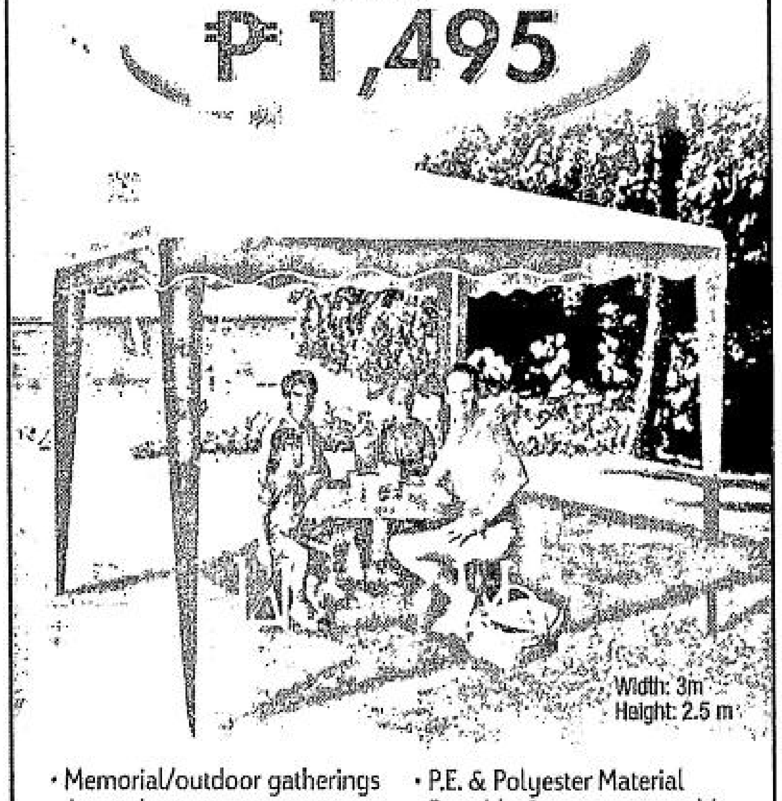

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UAAP DO-OR-DIE AFFAIR

Eagles, Archers clash for title today

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m.—La Salle vs Adamson (women's)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs Ateneo (seniors)

HEAD-TO-HEAD
(eliminations)
La Salle 70, Ateneo 63
Ateneo 76, La Salle 63
Best-of-three (1-1)
Ateneo 72, La Salle 70
La Salle 85, Ateneo 77

By Dennis U. Eroa

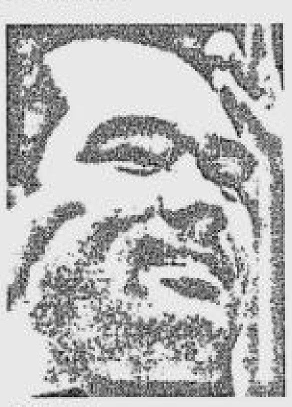
THE COLOR of destiny, which can change in a snap of a finger, will either be blue or green tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

La Salle, ready to stake its claim as the most dominant team in recent memory, shoots for its fifth straight title against formidable Ateneo in the decider of the UAAP championship series which has become a national obsession.

The mother of all games is set at 4 p.m. with neither protagonists having the clear edge.

Boosted by Enrico Villanueva and Larry Fonacier, the Blue Eagles won Game One, 72-70, but the Green Archers responded in their typical avenging fashion by topping Game Two, 85-77.

PUMAREN



BANAL

Lost in the shadow of the clash of the titans is the 2 p.m. match featuring the La Salle Lady Archers against the Adamson Falconettes for the women's crown.

The Lady Archers remain unbeaten in 13 games and are aiming for their fourth straight title after beating the Falconettes in Game One, 73-62, of their own best-of-three series.

In a country where basketball is not just a sport but almost a religion, the tiff has created a new pasttime–how to find tickets whose prices soar 15 times of their face value.

The search for tickets has been compared to finding a needle in a haystack, so to speak. Prominent names in the field of business, sports and entertainment will grace the match which has polarized the nation.

Over at the Loyola campus, some 500 students camped out for the evening in order to get the upper hand in the maddening ticket rush.

Villanueva, this season's MVP, George Chia, Fonacier, LA Tenorio, Rich Alvarez and Wesley Gonzales will banner Ateneo's bid, but big things can also be expected from Andrew Cruz, Sonny Tadeo and Cris Quimpo.

For La Salle, which is hoping to surpass the four-peat registered by University of Santo Tomas from '93 to '96, beating its bitterest rival will make a truly fulfilling season.

Creative playmaker Mike Cortez and Mark Cardona give the Archers the needed knockout punch, but the tough job of shackling the 6-foot-5 Villanueva lies on the broad shoulders of 6-foot-6 Carlo Sharma, Manny Ramos, Adonis Sta. Maria and Willy Wilson.

BJ Manalo, a former star from the multi-titled Ateneo junior team, Joseph Yeo and Junjun Cabatu can provide the firepower for the Archers.

The balance of power can tilt to the team which will display nerves of steel. Every second counts in this match described by both coaches Joel Banal and Franz Pumaren as "anybody's ballgame."

Fonacier and company can frolic in the outside, Villanueva and Alvarez are mean inside operators, Gonzales can penetrate but the question is:. Can Ateneo find an answer to the six-footer Cortez?

After two outings, Cortez has amazingly averaged 20 points, 5 rebounds and 8 assists, while Cardona boasts of 16 pts, 3 rebounds and 2 steals average.

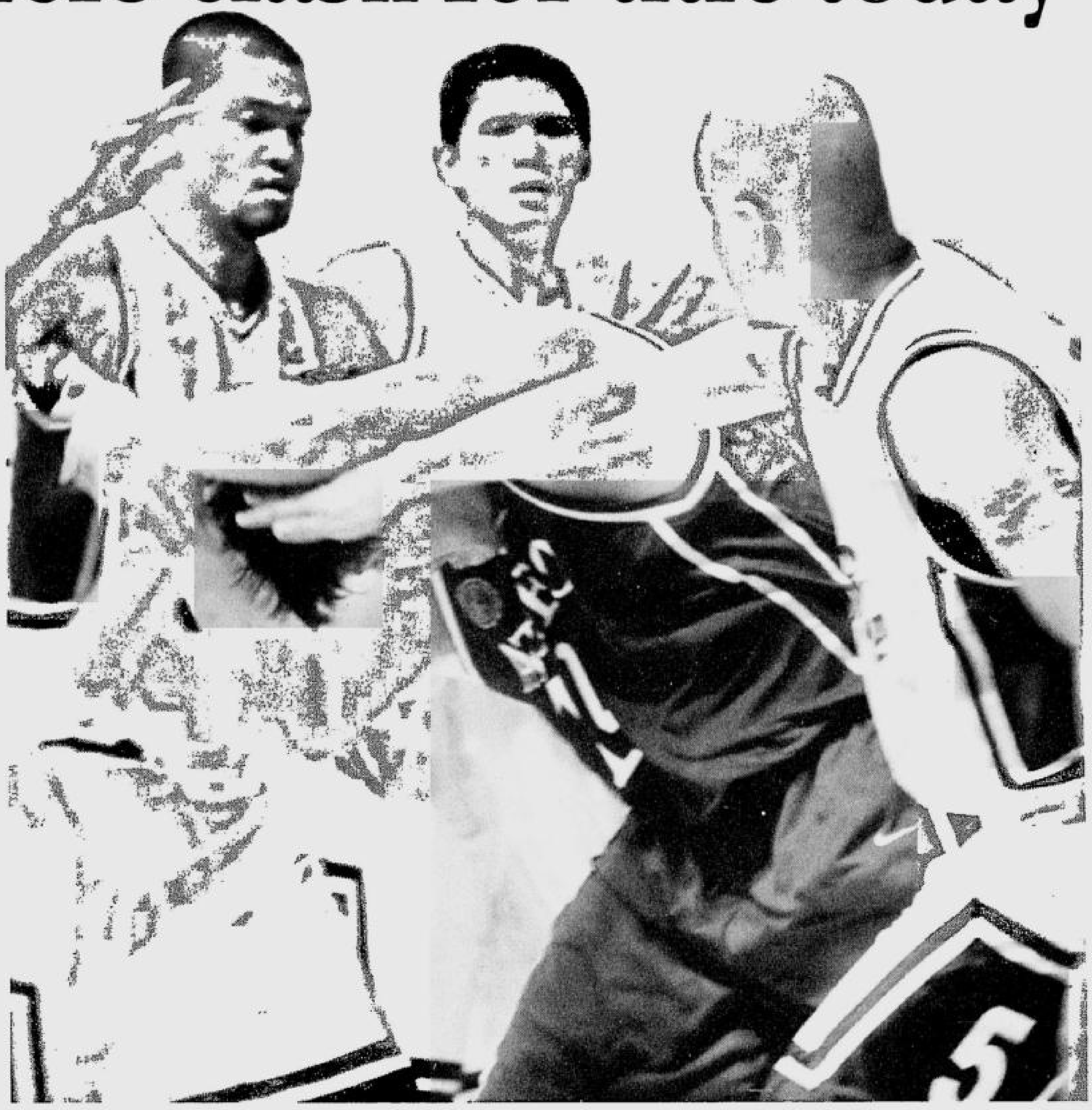
The efficient Archers half-court set can be stymied if Cortez will find his space limited.

Villanueva has piled up averages of 19 points, nine rebounds and 4 assists. Ateneo's bid will further be lifted if Alvarez (10 pts, 7 rebounds) can improve his numbers. Fonacier poured in 25 points in a losing effort in the second game

"We are in a better position to win the title this year compared with last year. The team now has the needed experience to win the UAAP title," said Banal.

Even after losing the opener, Pumaren has never wavered in his belief that his wards can survive the Eagles.

In 1999, Angelo Velasco's jumper enabled UST to take Game One, 62-60. But La Salle responded by winning the next two games, 81-74, and 78-75, respectively.



ATENEO main man Enrico Villanueva can expect this kind of swarming defense from La Salle's Carlos Sharma (from left), Adonis Sta. Maria and Willy Wilson as the Archers and the Eagles clash for the UAAP title today at the Araneta Coliseum.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

3rd Philtobo-Mitra Cup major races blast off today at Santa Ana Park

By Edwin Villanueva

EVERYONE'S attention will be riveted on Golden Ballet today when the majors of the 3rd Philtobo-Mitra Cup racing championships kick off at the Santa Ana Park.

Last year's juvenile filly standout is now competing in the 3YO Fillies Championship and like in the past, she's expected to win the race easily.

"I hope she does it again. *Sana swertehin uli*," said Jun Almeda, owner of the bay filly sired by Treasure Cay out of Likeable Style.

Golden Ballet, to be ridden again by star jockey Jonathan "Unoh" Hernandez, is facing four other rivals, with the Puyat-Tagle stable's Velocity getting the tipsters' nod as good forecast bet.

Rounding out the field in the one-mile race are Spanish Eyes, Windlass and Kay Gee Em Ey.

The day's other big event is the 3YO Colts Championship where Mighty Strong, another star of last year's hostilities, is given a slight edge to beat six other candidates, also over the mile.

PHILTOBO
Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders' Organization, Inc.

Albert Yam's stayer is tipped to encounter a stiff challenge from Paolo Mendoza's towering galloper San Diego Force, who has been impressive in his tuneup races, and Patrick Uy's Perfect Storm. Also joining the fray are Schwarzenegger, Bidang Bida, Ounce of Gold and Baccarat.

Winners of both races get P300,000 courtesy of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (3YO Colts) and Emperador Brandy (3YO Fillies).

"We're inviting all the racing fans to watch the Mitra Cup 3 races this weekend. *Para po ito sa bayang karerista*," said Philtobo-Mitra Cup 3 organizing committee chair Eric Tagle.

Mitra Cup 3 will be highlighted tomorrow by the three other keenly awaited championships.

Hermie Esguerra's High Octane and Tatler Cover banner the Juvenile Colts (1,500m) and Juvenile Fillies (1,500m) races, respectively, while another Mendoza bet, the speedball Batangas Entry, is tipped to prevail in the Classic (2,050m).

High Octane is running alongside stablemate Reigns Supreme as they bid for another 1-2 romp for the Esguerra Stable. Confronting them are Savvy Lad, Sucess Story and Arrivederci.

Tatler Cover's chief nemesis appears to be Marlon Cunanan's Shining Pyramid, while Batangas Entry's biggest problems should be Silver Story and Ilocandia Slew.

All three races, sponsored by EEG Dev. Corp., PhilSuisse Financial Services and Consultancy, Inc. and the Philippine Racing Commission, also give P300,000 to the winners.

Spurs get Bateer as 3rd-stringer

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—Chinese centre Mengke Bateer has been dealt to his second National Basketball Association team in three days.

The San Antonio Spurs on Thursday acquired Bateer from the Detroit Pistons for a 2003 second-round draft pick.

Bateer, 26, played 27 games and made 10 starts last season with the Denver Nuggets and averaged 5.1 points and 3.6 rebounds in 15.1 minutes.

On Tuesday, the Nuggets shipped Bateer, forward Don Reid and a first-round draft pick to Detroit for forward Rodney White.

In San Antonio, Bateer likely will serve as the third-string center behind starter David Robinson, who will retire after the 2002-2003 season, and free-agent signee Kevin Willis.

Signed by Denver as a free agent last February, Bateer followed Wang Zhizhi as the second Chinese player to join the NBA.

Bateer teamed with Wang and Yao Ming, the top overall pick in the 2002 draft, on the China's national team.

Bateer will join the Spurs at the conclusion of the 2002 Asian Games.

AFP

NBA

25 Days to NBA Opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that current Indiana Pacers coach Isiah Thomas (then with the Detroit Pistons) holds the record for most points scored in one quarter of an NBA Finals game (against the LA Lakers in 1988) with 25?

Plana rules GDAP golf

FORMER national player Junjun Plana sizzled with a System 36 net of 66 to capture overall honors in the second Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines (GDAP) Invitational tournament recently at the Wack Wack west course.

Gunning down an eagle and four birdies in a gross of two-under 70, the general manager of Wilson Sports Philippines won in runaway fashion over a field of more than a hundred players which took part in the aperitif to the ongoing seventh Philippine International Golf Show at the Megatrade Hall 2 of the SM Mega-Mall.

The Show, one of Asia's biggest which runs until tomorrow, attracted hundreds of visitors right on its first day yesterday with top equipment distributors showing off their new products and came up with big discounts.

The other winners were Jek Jek Mendoza, son of DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza who graced yesterday's opening rites together with DTI Secretary Mar Roxas, in Class A, Gene Diaz in Class B, Emil dela Cruz in Class C and Tracy Locsin in the ladies division.

The winners were honored during the annual Golf Show cocktails last night where a golfing holiday to Guam courtesy of major sponsors Continental Airlines and Guam Visitors Bureau and so many other items were raffled off.

Mendoza had a net 70 and edged Felix Yulo in the countback, Diaz scored a net 72 and also prevailed over Mark Mendoza in the countback, dela Cruz was another countback winner over Eduardo Primicias as well as Locsin who nipped Alice Jose in another tiebreak.

GDAP president Raymund Atendido expressed optimism that the golf industry will have a great year-end with the success of the tournament.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Lady Darinda 2. Destroyer 3. Aprey Special
Race 2—1. Courage Heart 2. Juan Marco 3. Morning Glory 4. Boogie Shoes 5. Premiere Stock
Race 3—1. Cash McCall 2. Fortius 3. Arabica
Race 4—1. Exchange Deal 2. Golden Indy 3. Shining Jo 4. Sea Wolf
Race 5—1. Profit Margin 2. Silver Dollar 3. Touch of Luck 4. May's Magic 5. Lucky Swing
Race 6—1. Mighty Strong 2. San Diego Force 3. Baccarat 4. Perfect Storm
Race 7—1. Court General 2. Andee's Ace 3. Bukambibig 4. Sweep Away 5. Owner's Dream
Race 8—1. Golden Ballet 2. Velocity
Race 9—1. Hydrogas 2. Silver Lining 3. Bakasan 4. Mister Cool 5. Silver Cho Cho
Race 10—1. Maayo Kaayo 2. Gold Pyramid 3. Prince Valiant 4. Burning Light 5. Desert Deb
Race 11—1. Ohayo Gozaimas 2. Patikim 3. Sensational 4. I Love You
Race 12—1. Matipuno 2. Reporter 3. Pampanga Queen 4. Hallmark 5. Moneyline
Race 13—1. Rain Check 2. Princess Helena 3. Kathy Rose 4. Cardinal Rule 5. Sweet Inspiration
Race 14—1. Morning After 2. Judicial System 3. Mini Skirt 4. Baby Maxxine 5. Modulo Queen 6. Dedicated

Camp John Hay is winningest active team

WHEN the 53rd Fil-Am Invitational unfolds in December in Baguio City, Camp John Hay (formerly called the John Hay Air Base) will have the distinction as the winningest active team.

The John Hay team dominated the '50s era of the Fil-Am tournament, the largest and oldest running amateur golf event according to the Guinness Book of World Records, as the winner in 1954, '55, '57, '58, '59 and '60.

The championship will be played at the scenic golf courses of Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay in Dec. 2-7 with Smart Communications as presenter and College Assurance Plan, Northwest Airlines and Wilson as major sponsors. Other sponsors are Bluecross and U-Bix Corp.

Canlubang Golf and Country Club, though, is still tops in terms of events won with 11 wins (1975, '76, '79, '80, '81, '83, '89, '91, '92, '93 and '94). They are followed closely by Wack Wack Golf and Country Club with the next best record with eight victories. Unfortunately, these teams are not joining this year's event.

Other successful teams are Valley Golf and Country Club and Clark Air Base with 4 each while defending champion Manila Southwoods and Malacañang Golf Club with 3 apiece.

In the individual competition, Tommy Manotoc of Luisita and Canlubang has the most success with seven trophies (1972, '74, '76, '94, '99 and 2000). He's skipping this year's event.

ASIAD BOXING

Pinoy fighter assured of bronze; Camat falls

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—Light-flyweight Harry Tanamor assured himself of a bronze medal last night but Christopher Camat was not as lucky.

In scoring his second straight victory, Tanamor employed rapid-fire punches in the last two rounds to outslug China's Zuo Shiming, 15-13.

The big rally saw Tanamor erase a sizable lead by the young Zuo as the Filipino cushioned the impact of Camat's sorry loss in the lightmiddle encounter with Kashif Muntaz.

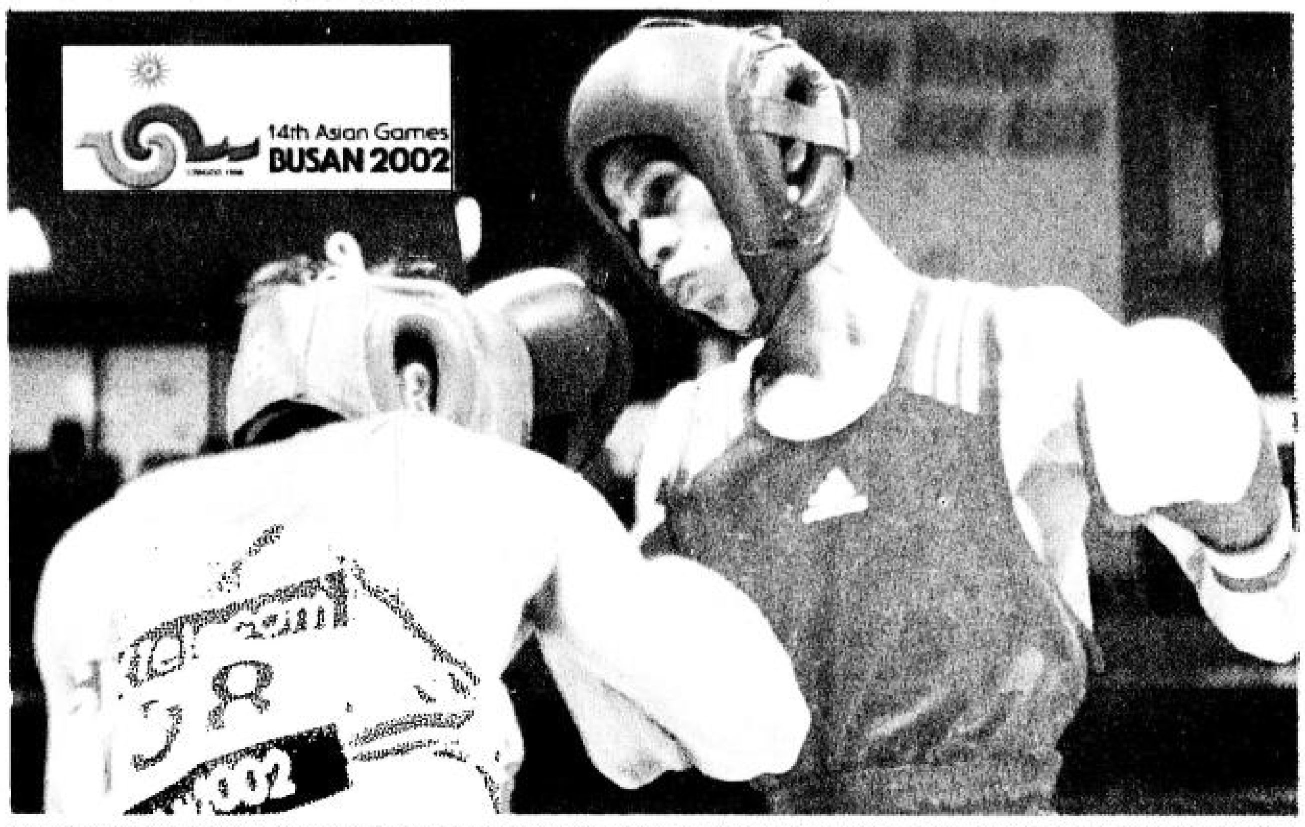
The Pakistani proved too tough a nut to crack, beating Camat, 18-11, as the Fil-Am suffered another heartbreaker after leaving a lucrative job in the United States to try his luck in Asiad boxing.

It will be Violito Payla's turn to see action today when he fights Uzbekistan's Toniyurob Tolasbob in a flyweight contest.

On Oct. 8, light-welter Romeo Brin and middleweight Maraon Golez will gun for bronze medal-assuring victories.

Golez, a 22-year-old find from Mandaue, Cebu, using his mother's maiden name, is touted as a big gold prospect here after his victory in Pyongyang, North Korea, some months back.

"*Pag hindi minalas, may* gold *tayo mula kay* Golez," said Boy Velasco, the coach of theboxing team.



TANAMOR (right) attacks China's Zou Shiming in the second round of the Asian Games light-flyweight (48kg) boxing preliminary bout at the Gymnasium in Masan, South Korea yesterday. Tanamor beat Zou. AP

Steal for Rafael

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—The night the Philippines survived Japan's Takehiko "Tora! Tora!" Orimo, Olsen Racela's mind was somewhere.

"I was thinking of the gift that I promised my son," he said after the Filipinos scored a come-from-behind 79-74 victory over Japan.

Rafael would turn four years old that day, Oct. 2.

Some fathers would maybe buy a bicycle for a birthday gift. Others a teddy bear. Or a replica of Schumacher's winning Formula 1 car.

Olsen's gift was none of the above. He had a totally different present: A three-point shot. "I promised him before I left that I will shoot three-point shots on his birthday," said Racela. "I said that would be my birthday gift for him."

Perhaps, it's in the family's habit to be different. His father named him Olsen because he was born on All Saints' Day, also the natal day of my Insan Taby Tabaniag, who will turn 83 on Nov. 1. "Olsen" stands for "All Saints."

See the creativity?

Could be the genes, the reason Olsen had a different gift for his son?

But as in other gifts, which could be had with either a plastic card or hard-earned money, Olsen's was quite difficult to achieve.

First, he is not a forward or a center. Being a point guard, his main job is to orchestrate plays, look for the open man, or create situations leading to a conversion with him as the secondary option to go for the hoop. In short, his shots are never the first options. A major cog of the team, Racela is part of the starting lineup. Thus, in the game against Japan, the country's No. 1 point guard was, as usual, a starter.

But with the game just minutes old, Racela had two fouls already and coach Jong Uichico saw it fit to rest him. Japan appeared ready to give us hell, not to mention that the referees from the Czech Republic and Qatar looked bent to send us to purgatory. Racela is so vital a player that Uichico would not allow Racela to be soaked in there. Too dangerous. The game has barely started.

Second quarter. No Racela.

Third quarter. Not much Racela.

Racela fully recaptured his slot only in the fourth quarter, when the game seemed lost.

Then in a snap, it happened. Racela fired a second triple. Good.

The first kept the Filipinos close to the Japanese, 46-48, in the third quarter.

The second triple boosted the Filipinos' seemingly sagging morale, 57-60, in the fourth and last quarter.

Was his mission for Rafael accomplished? Birthday present fulfilled? Not quite.

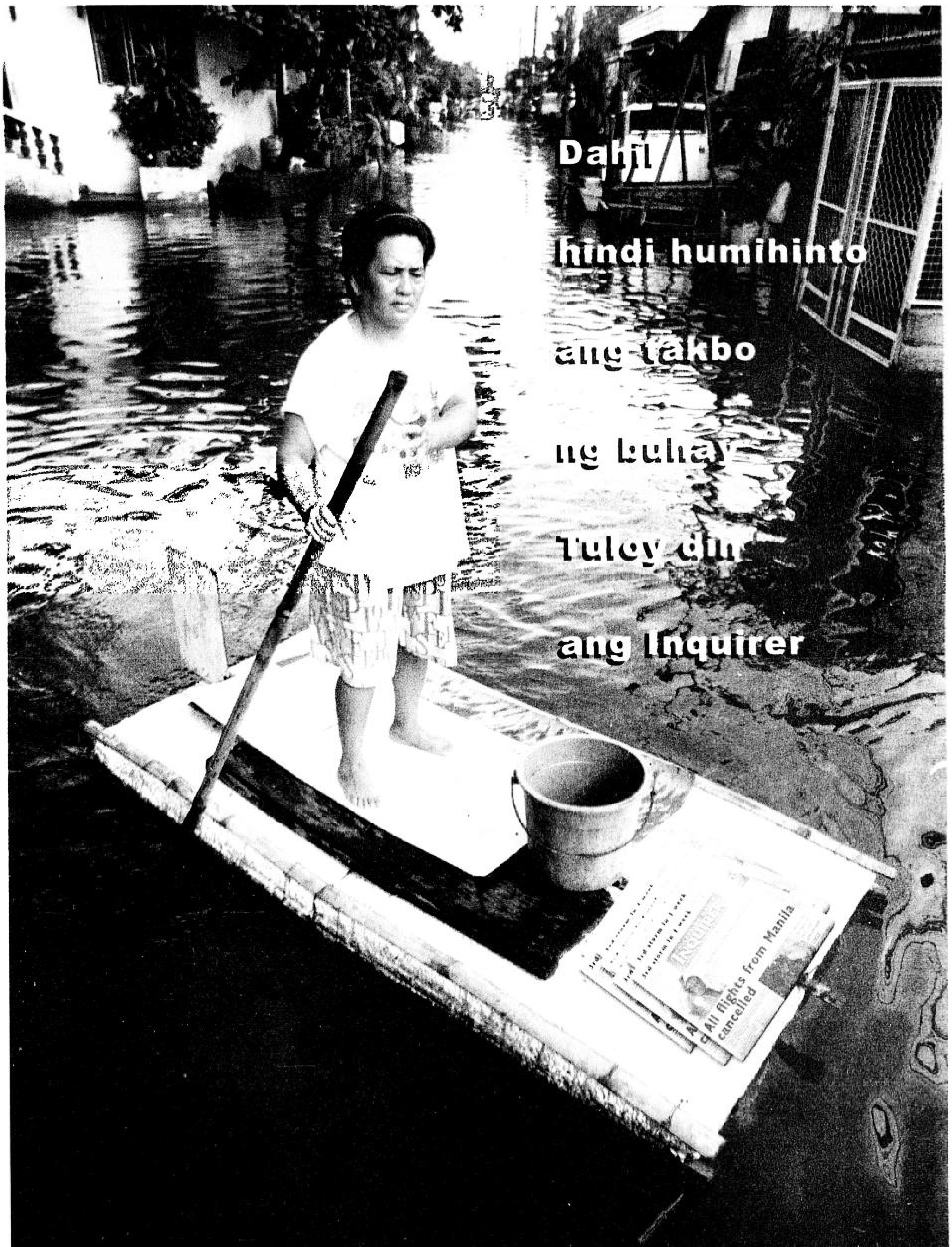
He didn't promise Rafael one triple. He said "three-point shots." So a third one would do it.

With 1 minute 13 ticks left, Racela flung the triple that altered not only the complexion of the game but also made Rafael's day.

The shot gave the Filipinos their first taste of the lead, 74-73, after having last tasted it at 28-25 on a Dennis Espino trey. But more importantly, it finally signaled the downing of Tora! Tora as Orimo and the entire Japanese crew would score nothing but a measly point against the Filipinos' closing 6-0 blast in the last 28.9 seconds of the game.

"I saw a chance to steal the game and I grabbed that chance," said Racela. "I did it for the country, for Rafael."

He stole it for his son.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GOLF ACTION

Quiazon remains in the hunt

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—Ria Denise Quiazon, the only repeater in the ladies team, shot an even-par-72 yesterday to stay in contention in the Asian Games here.

The 21-year-old, 5-foot-9 Quiazon, a member of the bronze-medal winning team in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad together with Dorothy Delasin and Jennifer Rosales, shot nines of 36-36 in the sunshine.

Her superb form helped keep the Philippines afloat amid the failure of the men's team to gain ground at the Asia Country Club midway into the tournament.

Carmelette Villaroman shot a 76 to stay 9th and Heidi Chua made 78 for 10th as the RP women's team took solo third in the team standings.

Their total of 301 was a mere shot up on Chinese Taipei, although the Filipinas are 11 strokes behind the second running hosts.

Quaizon's 150 put her in fourth in a tie with South Korean Park Won Mi and Taipei's Hung Chin Huei.

Leading the field is Korean Kim Joo Mi (73-70=143).

"We still have two days to go and I believe my team is now very much inspired after Ria's very fine performance today," said Alice Andrada, the team captain who is the treasurer of the National Golf Association of the Philippines. "Wait till Heidi and Carmelette make their move."

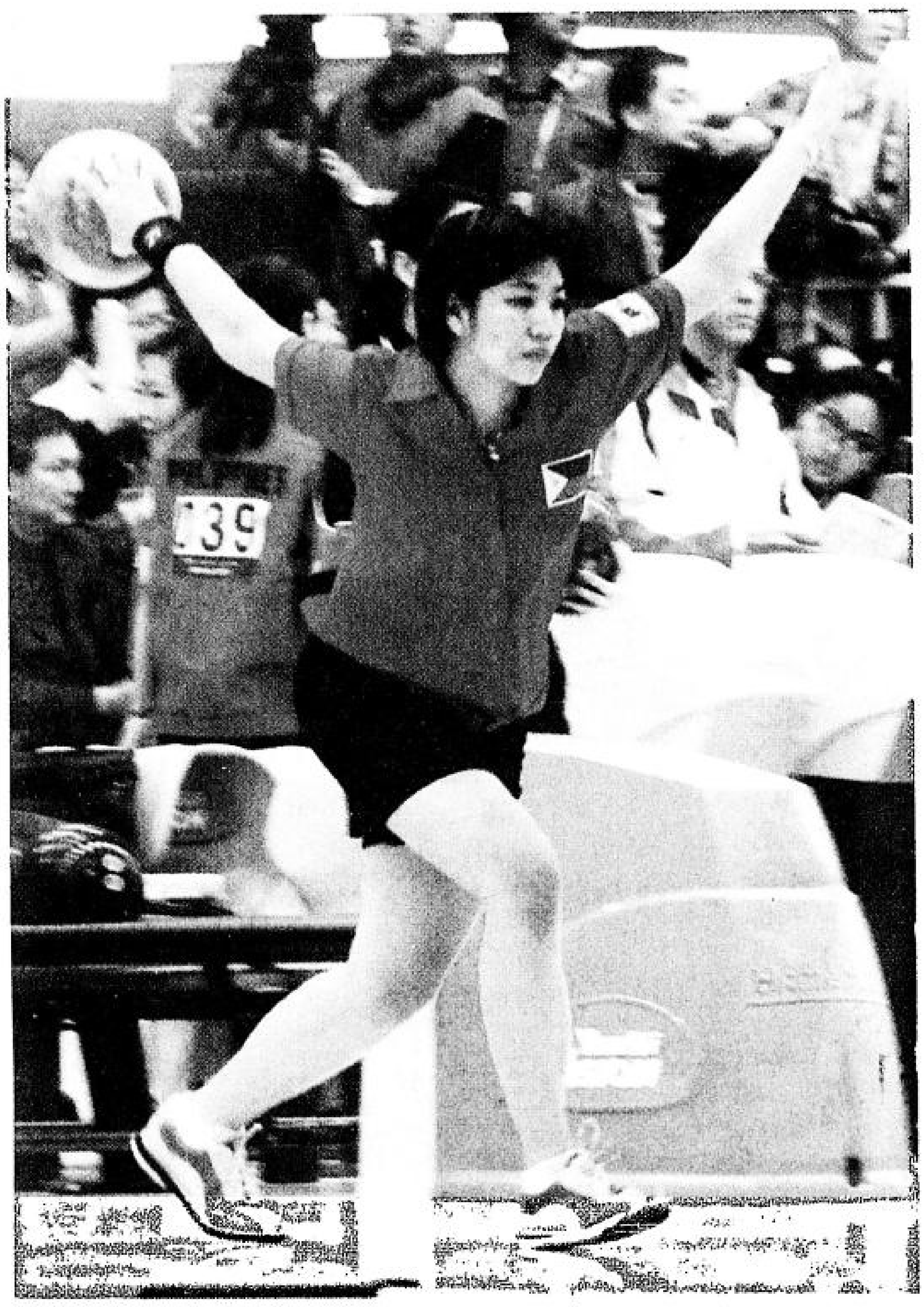
Japan paced the ladies team derby with a 289, a mere stroke ahead of South Korea in the 6-nation women's division.

But the RP men's team hobbled home almost disastrously as it fell way below in the standings following unexpected collapses by Angelo Que, Jerome Delariarte, Juvic Pagunsan and Marlon Dizon.

All but Dizon scored 77s in the four-to-play, three-to-count format, sending the boys to eighth in team play in the 16-nation men's competition. Dizon's 78 did not count anew.

"It's really hard to predict the outcome when it comes to golf," said Admiral Louie Fernandez, vice president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines. "One day you score well, the next day you don't know what's going to happen. But we are still hoping we can recover in the next two days of competition."

QUIAZON watches her drive. JESS YUSON



RP bowler Lisa del Rosario competes in the women's doubles yesterday. JESS YUSON

Lopez elected to world jury of boxing refs

'It's a pleasant surprise for me to win this honor'

By A S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—With boxing matches not being all won atop the ring, the boxing delegation won off it when Manny Lopez grabbed a slot in the world jury.

LOPEZ

"It's a pleasant surprise, really, for me to win this honor," said Lopez. "I didn't expect this to happen."

Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, was elevated to the rare honor of heading the world jury of boxing referees for the ongoing Asian Games here.

No less than Anwar Chowdry, the powerful president of the World Boxing Federation, who appointed Lopez.

"I really did not expect it," said Lopez. "But in the spirit of reconciliation and for my love for boxing in general and Philippine boxing in particular, I have accepted it with honor."

Lopez's appointment could really revive handsome ties with Chowdry and Philippine boxing after their relations were strained some years back due to misunderstanding fueled mainly by politicking.

"The new job spells a lot of hard work but I still accepted it," said Lopez. "Wala na ngayong agam-agam hinggil sa relasyon ng Abap at ni Mr. Chowdry. Our objective ever since naman is to help everybody in boxing."

Lopez's main job is to assign referees for every bout staged here.

"Because of my new work, I rarely see our boxers anymore," said Lopez.

"I see them only when the day is done. But they understand. They are in good hands din naman as our coaches led by Boy Velasco take good care of them at the Athletes Village."

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9 a.m.-10 a.m.—Fencing finals
10 a.m.-12 nn—Women's volleyball (Thailand vs Japan)
1 p.m.-2 p.m.—Swimming heats
2 p.m.-4 p.m.—Basketball: Japan vs China (quarterfinals)
4 p.m.-6 p.m.—Beach volleyball or Weightlifting
6 p.m.-7 p.m.—Boxing
7 p.m.-8 p.m.—Billiards
8 p.m.-9 p.m. Swim finals
9 p.m.-10 p.m.—Boxing
10 p.m.-10:30 p.m.—Asian Games Recap
10:30 p.m.-12 mn—Weightlifting

2002 Busan Asian Games DREAM 4 GOLD

'It's all in the mind'

BUSAN, South Korea—Singapore bodybuilder Augustine Lee is nearly twice as old as most of his Asian Games competitors. But the 48-year-old Lee says age is "all in the mind."

"I always look at myself and say 'I'm 48 years young'," Lee says. "Age is only a number for me."

With closely cropped hair, the 1.8-meter (5-foot-11) former oil driller hopes to become a "role model."

"It's all about leading a life the rest would follow," he said Friday.

The youngest competitor in the 90-kilogram category is 25-year-old Sanayaima Singh Nongmaithem from India. But Lee is not intimidated.

"You must have positive attitude toward life," Lee said.

***

Lebanon has sent 73 competitors to the Asian Games, nearly half of them on its rebuilding soccer team.

"We are building a new national team with a new coach and a new mentality," soccer team official Rashid Nassar said Friday. The rest compete in 14 other events including golf, shooting, wrestling, basketball and track and field.

***

Organizers of the Asian Games are providing places of worship for Buddhists, Christians, Catholics, Muslims and other religions at the Athletes Village — 24 hours a day in English, Chinese, Arabic, Russian and various other languages.

"We just want to try to make them feel more comfortable, even feel at home," said Son Kwang-suk, the religious service manager.

Due to the large number of Muslim competitors, the fourth floor of the recreation center houses an Islamic worship center facing Mecca, the religion's holiest place in Saudi Arabia.

A number of monks at the village's Buddhist Dharma House come from a nearby temple and hold morning chants at 6 a.m.

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RP dribblers down Taipei . . .

fight after that was when it reduced the lead to 12, 48-62.

But that only stung the Filipinos, who strung up baskets sparked by another triple by Racela as the Filipinos restored order, 74-53, going into the homestretch.

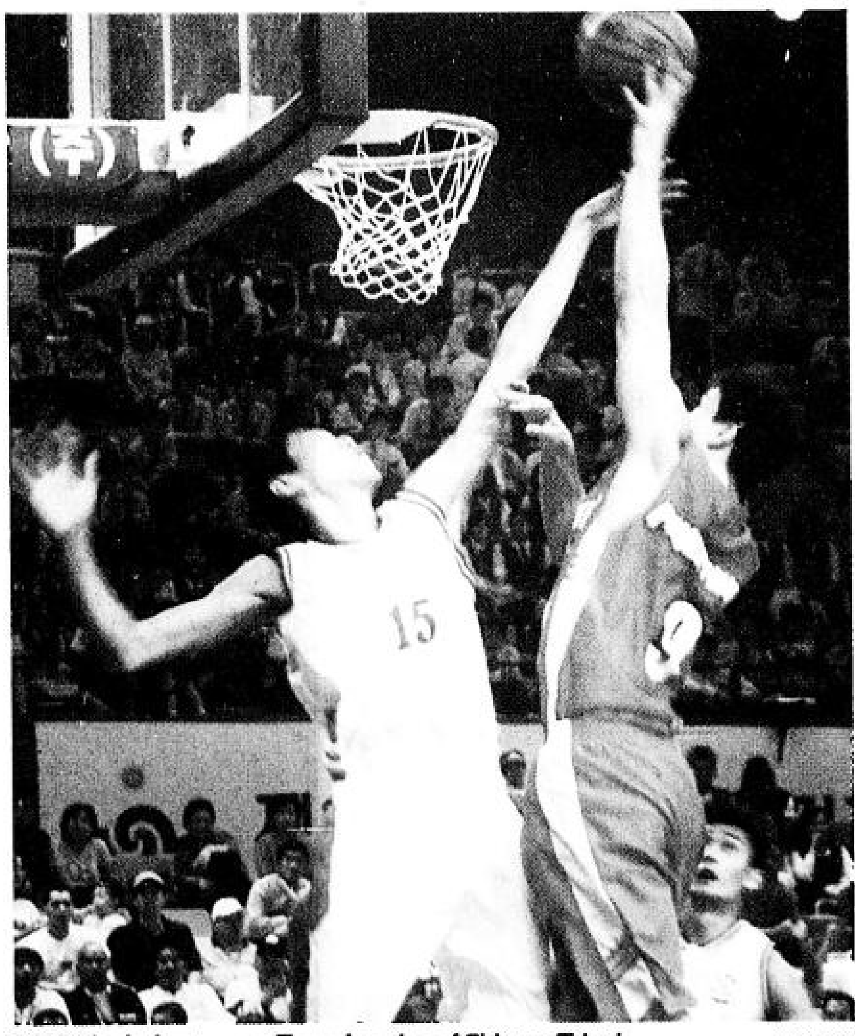
When asked about RP's chances against the Yao Ming-led China, Uichico said: "We are ready. But are they ready for us?"

Uichico, however, was quick to rephrase his statement: "No, that was meant as joke. China will always be China. Tough to beat that's why they are the Asian champions. We'll do our best on Tuesday. That's all I can say at the moment."

Scores:

RP 83—Taulava 18, Cariaso 14, Racela 12, Castillo 8, Espino 7, Menk 7, Duremdes 7, Hontiveros 3, Pennisi 3, Ildefonso 2, Hatfield 2, Seigle 0.

CHINESE TAIPEI 69—Chiu CY 19, Tseng 14, Yang 13, Tien 12, Wu 6, Chou 3, Chen 2, Tseng WT 0, Lee 0.



ERIC Menk shoots over Tseng Jen-ting of Chinese-Taipei. JESS YUSON

SK, China prevail

BUSAN, South Korea--Kim Kwe-ryong scored 20 points as South Korea used a swarming defense to trounce Malaysia, 93-45, in the preliminary round of women's basketball at the Asian Games.

Also in women's play Friday, China beat Uzbekistan, 104-58. *AP*

Filipino Soft tennisters bow out

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Josephine Paguyo and Petrona Bantay found out yesterday soft tennis is not all about hitting the ball, it is more of executing well.

The Filipinas found this out yesterday as they yielded to the Koreans, 5-0, and bowed out of the 14th Asian Games' soft tennis double event with a 1-2 record in the preliminary round at the Sajik claycourts here.

They were also beaten by the reigning world singles titlist Wang shi-ting and Chon Chin-ping, 5-1, in 30 minutes.

Undaunted, the Filipinas swamped Mongolians Narantsetseg Lhaguajar and Enkhmaa Borbaatar, 5-0, to finish third in the Group B bracket.

"*Nakakasabay kami sa palo nila pero yung* end game strategy *nila sa bawat* game *sobrang ganda ng* execution," women's team event. "At least *na* warm-up *kami nang husto*."

"The opposition here is so strong our Southeast Asian rivals (Indons and Thais) withdrew at the last minute," said national women's coach Jovy Mamawal.

The men's team of Wenifredo de Leon and Richard Paguyo also failed to advance in Group A of the men's doubles, absorbing 5-0 defeats from both the Taiwansese and the Koreans.

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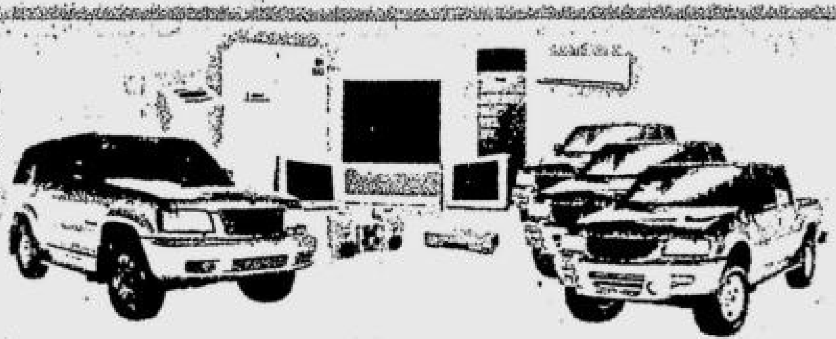

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Bata Reyes' smile vanishes with bronze-medal finish

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Even the magician can run out of tricks.

Efren "Bata" Reyes, dubbed "The Magician" for his pool wizardry, walked slowly into the secretariat of the Philippine delegation Thursday night.

His head was slightly bowed and the familiar toothy grin was gone. He was hurting. Not physically, but mentally.

He knows he'd fallen short of his countrymen's expectations back home when he settled for the bronze medal in the 8-ball singles event of the billiards competitions in the 14th Asian Games here.

"*Di binigyan ng* break," lamented Reyes, the 1999 world pool titlist who boasts five 8-ball triumphs in numerous international tournaments. "*Anim na* break *ko, walang nahulog sa butas. Ang masama, benta sa kanya* (Chinese -Taipei's Hisa Hui-kai) *ang mga bola kaya natatapos n'ya ang* rack. *Pag-miss naman n'ya sa* break, *hirap ako dahil dikit-dikit ang mga bola.*"

Bad luck also hounded him, according to Reyes.

With the score at 8-7, Reyes had an opportunity to tie with only three balls left. "*Tinira ko ang uno, dapat* stopped ball, *pero gumalaw at sumiksik sa gilid. Doon ako natalo.*"

Reyes reiterated his view that in billiards, the breaks are of utmost importance. "*Nakuha ko ang unang* break, *wala namang nahulog. Pag-*break *ko na, hulog naman ang* cue ball."

Though he still has one event left (3-cushion carom) tomorrow, Reyes said he has a slim chance.

"*Mas may pag-asa pa ako kung* English billiards, *pero di ako makakalaro dahil kasabay ng* 3-cushion."

Impressed by Hsia, who beat him, 9-7, Reyes said the Taiwanese would also be hard to beat in the 9-ball singles where the country's Warren Kiamco and Antonio Lining are entered.

REYES: The Magician runs out of tricks.

JESS YUSON

Rivals say NK giant should 'Ri-tire'

RI (left) in action during North Korea's losing effort against South Korea on Thursday.

AFP

BUSAN, South Korea—Like a dinosaur unable to evolve, North Korean 2.36m (7-foot-9) giant Ri Myong-Hun has been exposed as a basketball liability and opponents even suggest the lumbering 35-year-old goliath should Ri-tire.

Ri, the tallest participant here at the Asian Games, is the most popular figure in the North Korean delegation. But despite his size, Ri has been unable to dominate for a North Korean squad on the brink of medal elimination.

South Korea outrebounded their Communist North Korean rivals in a 101-85 victory Thursday. Ri managed only three rebounds and 14 points.

"He wasn't as dangerous as we thought he would be," South Korean coach Kim Jin said. "He has got great height. But he is pretty old and that slowed him down. He was not very good in terms of speed or power." An injured right knee has dropped Ri from slow to plodding on the court. And opponents are even feeling sorry for him as they use superior quickness and strength to position themselves well and negate much of his height advantage.

"I'm a lot younger," said 28-year-old South Korean big man Seo Jang-Hoon. "He is taller but physically I'm in better condition. I tried really hard not to hurt him." It became clear to South Korean players that their North rivals have also decided Ri's time is on the wane. Ri spent much of the game yelling at his teammates to get him the ball but they favored an up-tempo game.

"He talked a lot of the time," South Korean scoring leader Moon Kyung-Eun said. "He says, 'Why don't you give me the ball?' He looked a little cranky and he fumed a little." North Korean players and coaches rejected interview requests.

Ri's best effort was 13 points and 17 rebounds in an 85-64 triumph over United Arab Emirates.

AFP

SPORTSWATCH

Bumgarner, Jimenez top MP Turbo Speedfest

LONE lady driver Michelle Bumgarner and Pampanga's Ampok Jimenez romped away with the top prizes in MP Turbo's 2002 Speedfest Karting Championships held at the Clark Expo Grounds last Sunday. M&M Kart Racing's 12-year-old Bumgarner held back a hard charging Intelco's Erick Tansel through 15 high-speed laps in the combined MP Turbo Open and KT Rated finals to finish first in both categories. Speedfest Novice leader Jimenez had to dig deep to ward off Intelco's new sensation Oliver Aquino for the KT Novice A win. Aquino, however, already dominated the KT Novice B earlier and will be a future threat to all. The fourth round attracted more than 50 entries and was the biggest field in this annual event that brings the sport of karting closer to the people. The MP Turbo-organized event is sponsored by ZED, Gulf Lubricants, San Miguel Beer, Dickies Racing, BLTBCo, Subic Lemans Race Track & M&M Kart Racing. The Clark leg is held in cooperation with the North Philippines Tourism Council under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ramona Lopez-Ty and is sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines, the FIA/CIK representative of the Philippines.

Tanaka, Duval share championship lead

WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia—Hidemichi Tanaka is giving himself a crash course in the PGA Tour this year. The Japanese player gave everyone else a lesson in who he is Thursday, birdieing three of the last four holes for a 7-under 64 and a share of the first-round lead with David Duval in the Michelob Championship. The leaders were two shots ahead of Loren Roberts, the Texas Open winner last week, Ryder Cup team member Scott Hoch and three others. Ten players were three off the lead, including Peter Jacobsen and Virginian John Rollins. Tanaka had eight birdies and one bogey in his first competitive trip around the 6,853-yard River Course at Kingsmill Golf Club, and thought the fatigue of having played 27 prior events might have actually helped him.

AP

Serena withdraws from meets due to fatigue

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida—Serena Williams, the world's No. 1-ranked player, has withdrawn from three European indoor tournaments because of fatigue, the WTA Tour announced Thursday. Williams won her third consecutive Grand Slam title on Sept. 8 when she beat her sister Venus in the US Open final. Since then she played in the Toyota Princess Cup in Tokyo, winning the singles title and playing doubles with Martina Navratilova, and then won her season-leading eighth title last week in Leipzig, Germany, where she also won the doubles with Alexandra Stevenson. The tour said Williams arrived at her home in Florida on Monday. She then made the decision that, based on fatigue, she needed to rest and recover for the next three weeks.

AP

Cards 1 short of sweep; Braves level with Giants

ATLANTA, Georgia—Kevin Millwood pitched six solid innings and Javy Lopez and Vinny Castilla hit back-to-back homers in the second inning as the Atlanta Braves defeated the San Francisco Giants 7-3 in National League Divisional Series play on Thursday.

The Braves evened the best-of-five series 1-1 with the win, with the series now heading to San Francisco for Games Three and Four on Saturday and Sunday.

In the day's other divisional playoff game, Miguel Cairo's pinch-hit single in the ninth inning gave the St. Louis Cardinals a 2-1 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks at Phoenix.

The victory gives the Cardinals a 2-0 lead in that series as they head home for Game Three in St. Louis on Saturday.

Giants' starter Kirk Reuter was hit hard in Atlanta, allowing six runs in three-plus innings.

Reuters

Ucap 4-stag derby fires off today

THE UCAP Screening Committee 4-Stag Derby gets under way at Mandaluyong Coliseum today featuring more than 50 fights.

Pagcor and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug Inc. are the sponsors.

To host the event are members of Ucap's screening committee-Rey Oliveros, Tiago Cerilla and Ariel Garovillo. Today's general admission fee has been lowered to P200.

Last Thursday, three entries topped the "3rd Ucap Anito MB/Calvin Dominator 7-Stag Derby." Finishing with identical 6-1 (win-loss) slates were King Boxer of OPMI president Vic Yu, Firebird II of hotelier Biboy Enriquez and Flyover of lawyer Ram Lopez and Bobby Wong.

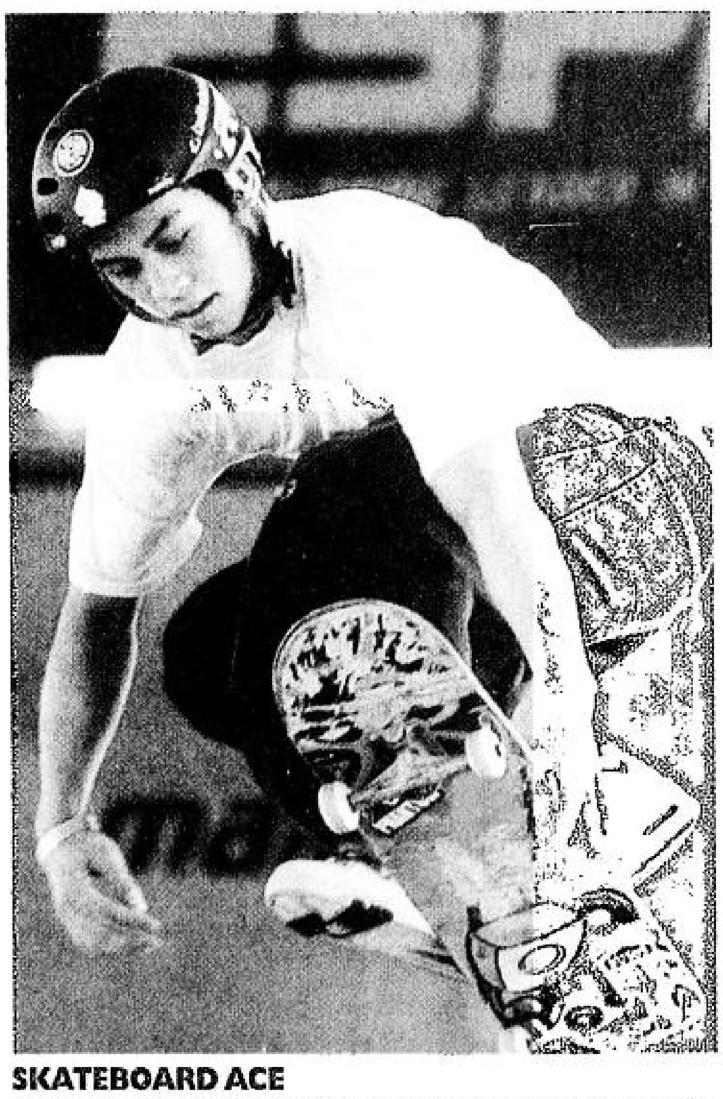
Gonzales, Marquez shoot for victories

TOP contenders aim to fortify their title bids as WG&A brings the seventh leg of the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series to Cebu City on Oct. 12-13.

Spearheading the Cebuano campaign is former Jet Ski rider of the Year Jan Jan Gonzales who currently leads the Formula SL Light class with 217 points in the series sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP).

However, Indy Villalon is just close behind with 187.5 points with Kendrick Sy and Tuason Racing-Team Oxygen's PJ Religisio, currently with 148 and 118 points, respectively, hoping to pull big upsets against Gonzales.

Another focus of the event is expected neck and neck battle between Edgesports teammates Jeremy Marquez and Ryan Francisco in the Intercon-A class.



SKATEBOARD ACE

Anselm Castañeda shows fine form during his practice run in the Asian Xtour Manila leg yesterday at the Bonifacio Global City. Castañeda, bronze medalist in the Asian X Games Qualifier IV, is considered as southeast Asia's top skateboarder.

Chess clinic gets under way

FUN games like blitz will highlight the opening of the sixth series of Milo Checkmate clinic that gets going today, Oct. 5, at St. Benedict College inside Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City; Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Vito Cruz, Manila; and Greenhills Shopping Center.

Clinic at SBC will be held at the HS student lounge from 7:30-11:30 a.m.; RMSC-9 a.m.-1 p.m. and GSC-2:30-5:30 p.m.

The clinic is open to young chess enthusiasts who are 5 years old and above and will officially starts on Oct. 26 until Dec. 8.

Interested parties can call MCCA at 826-8560. The clinic will also serve as preparation for the second elimination leg of the 2003 US-bound Milo Checkmate team selection tournament.

DA Strikers win

DA Strikers football club beat Alabang United Kids, 1-0, to win Matchday Two of the "2014 Futbol Cup-Urdaneta" recently at the village park football field.

Jorge Tonda's captivating footwork freed the diminutive and swift attacker, Ginno Z, who sent the ball crashing into the back of the Alabang net.

With the end drawing near and down one goal, Alabang United, led by Noel Deles, John Fuentes, Michelle and Matthew, pushed aggressively forward in search of an equalizer. But the sparkling form of star defender Rafa kept Da Strikers club out of harm's way and onward to victory.

ASIAD ROUNDUP

Uzbek mom upstages Chinese gymnasts

By Phil Brown
AP Writer

BUSAN, South Korea—China had to share some of its gold medals and suffered a rare table tennis defeat at the Asian Games on Friday.

Meanwhile, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines joined the ranks of gold winners.

A 27-year-old mother from Uzbekistan beat the Chinese for one of the day's five gymnastics gold medals, a South Korean won another and China shared the other three—with a South Korean and two North Koreans.

In women's team table tennis, North Korea beat China 3-1 in the gold medal match. The Chinese had taken six of seven table tennis golds at the 1998 games, losing only men's singles.

Despite the setbacks, China still increased its overall lead by winning 13 events.

With only women's table tennis remaining Friday, it had 71 gold medals—more than halfway to its target with 10 days remaining.

Thanks to another upset of Japanese favorites by Wu Peng, China won three swimming races. It took four golds in shooting, one in beach volleyball, one in wrestling and one in cycling.

South Korea narrowed the gap in what some consider the real contest of the Asian Games, for second behind China.

With its two gymnastics golds, two in wrestling, two in women's epee and men's saber team fencing and one in shooting, it had a total of 22.

Japan still enjoyed a slight edge with 24. It won two golds in swimming, one in beach volleyball and one in the team division of the equestrian three-day event.

Kazakhstan weightlifter Sergey Filimonov broke a world record in the snatch, winning the gold in the men's 77-kilogram division.

China's Li Hongli matched Filimonov's lift of 173 kilograms in the snatch but then missed all three tries at 197.5 in the clean and jerk. The two Asian lifters broke the mark of 172.5 set by Plamen Zhelyazkov of Bulgaria in March.

Kazakhstan also won a shooting gold, lifting its total to six.

Malaysia ended its gold drought with two victories Friday, but missed another one it had counted on.

Wendy Chai and Sarah Yap won 2,589 to 2,558 against South Koreans Cha Mi-jung and Kim Soo-kyung in women's doubles bowling and Asian champion Ong Beng Hee beat Pakistan's Mansoor Zaman 9-0, 9-7, 9-0 in men's squash.

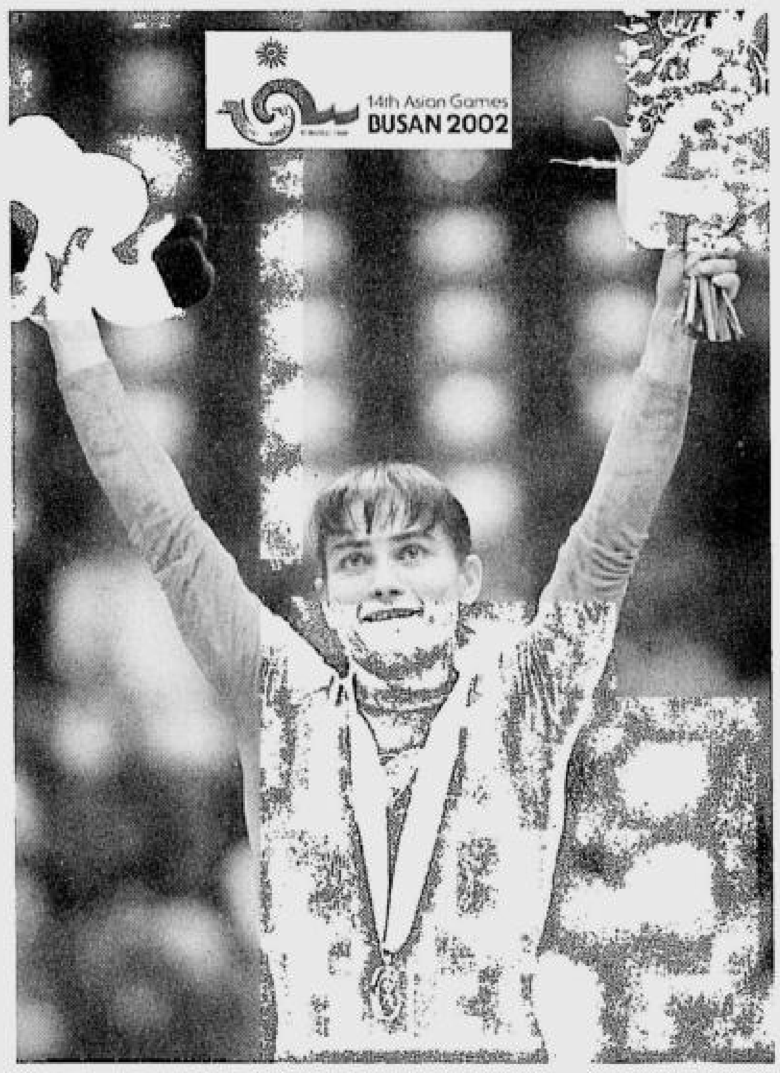
But Malaysia's other Asian squash champion, Nicol David, lost 9-7, 9-5, 9-7 to Hong Kong's Rebecca Chiu, whom she had beaten in the Asian championships in May.

Vietnam won its first gold in carom free ball (Partie Libre) billiards, with Tran Dinh Hoam beating compatriot Duong Hoang Anh 400-142.

The Philippines' first came from Rafael Nepomuceno and Rowen Jay Bautista winning men's doubles bowling, 2,714 to 2,670 over Japan's Isao Yamamoto and Seiji Watanabe.

In gymnastics, Uzbekistan's Oksana Chusovitina won the women's vault and said younger gymnasts can learn from her that age is not a barrier.

South Korea's Kim Seung-il won the men's floor exercises, with China's Yang Wei, the all-around champion here, taking the bronze.



CHUSOVITINA celebrates after receiving her gold medal for the vault event in the women's apparatus finals for the 14th Asian Games in Busan.Chusovitina won gold with a total point of 9.450. AFP

Delasin starts World Golf bid with a 72

HARDPRESSED to make her presence felt in a season far worse than her previous two, Fil-American Dorothy Delasin started out in the middle of the pack with an even-par 72 in the opening round of the $775,000 Samsung World Championship in Vallejo, California.

The defending champion failed to capitalize on a steady start as she picked up two bogeys down the last six holes of the Hiddenbrooke Golf Club and fell seven strokes right off in the event that features only LPGA season's top 17 money winners and circuit winners of the world's three other tours.

Michele Redman upstaged the world's top player by breaking the course record with a 65 and grab a one-stroke lead over Sweden's Annika Sorenstam.

Sorenstam spiked her 66 with an ace–the sixth of her career–but it was not enough to put her atop the board. She appeared set for a tie but her second shot went into the water at the closing 497-yard par-5.

Delasin finished 38th in the money list with winnings of $240,691 and only two top 10 finishes to show. She only made it to the elite roster as the defending champion.

Delasin won rookie of the year honors in 2001 with a victory in the Giant Eagle Classic and won twice the next year by defending her Giant Eagle crown and winning the Samsung tilt. Her best finish this year also came in the Giant Eagle event where she placed third.

Jenny Rosales failed to qualify but will see action in another LPGA event for the season's top money winners next week.

"I have a lot of motivation," said Sorenstam, who has won her last two events. "I've won eight times, but there are still a lot of records on the LPGA (Tour) that I'd like to break.

Redman, of the United States, matched the best opening round in tournament history and broke the Hiddebrooke Golf Club record.

Last year, Redman struggled to an opening-round 76 at this elite field event and finished 15th.

Jong Arcano

Stagwars series slated

FEATURING the very best stags screened by NCA, Ucap, Balbina, NGBA, GF and Migba, the annual Stagwars 2002 series resumes on Oct. 7-9, with the staging of another blockbuster NCA 7-Stag Derby at the Araneta Coliseum.

Three-stag qualifying matches are billed on Monday, Oct. 7, followed by the four-stag finals on Wednesday, Oct. 9. Hosted by former PBA Commissioner Rudy Salud, Nestor Mercado, Lito Orillaza and Alan Tan, submission of weights will be on Sunday, Oct. 6, at the coliseum green gate. For details, call 911-3101, ask for Dong Lamoste.

Heading the elite entry field are Nene Araneta, Danding Cojuangco, Gov. Ito Ynares, Frank Berin, the Firefly Group, Jun and Rudy Jingco, Jet Fernando, Rudy Salud, James Chiongbian, Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco, Rep. Claude Bautista, Mario Villamor and Boy Jiao, Meycauayan Mayor Eddie Alarilla, Boy Primallon and Tos Reyes, Louie Cua and Joseph Sy, Boy de Rosa, John Capinpin, Edgar Santos and Ruel Ricafort. Also in the star-studded cast are Alex Escalona, Tony Tan, Tony Marfori, Jessie Viceo, Pepito Ngo, Rep. Rudy Albano, Chito Bersamin, Ram Lopez, Patrick Puno, Alan Tan, Ruel Feliciano and Sons, Romy Panganiban, Pampanga's Madlambayan brothers and Jerry Fevidal.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: LPGA Williams Championship, 2 p.m. (r - 8 p.m.), Star Sports
Solheim Cup 2002, 4 p.m., Star Sports
BASEBALL: MLB Division Series, 8 a.m. (r - 7 p.m.) and tomorrow at 1 a.m., ESPN
BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff, 11 a.m. (r - 7 p.m.), Star Sports
SOCCER: Spanish League Highlights, 7 a.m. (r), Star Sports
Futbol Mundial, 9 a.m. (r), Star Sports
UEFA Champions League, 12 noon.

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adidas 14th Asian Games medal tally

ASIAN GAMES MEDAL STANDINGS

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
China	71	32	21	124
Japan	24	33	30	87
South Korea	22	26	32	80
Kazakhstan	6	5	9	20
N. Korea	5	8	8	21
Uzbekistan	3	5	6	14
Thailand	2	6	3	11
Chinese Taipei	2	4	9	15
Hong Kong	2	2	4	8
Malaysia	2	2	2	6
Iran	1	2	8	11
India	1	2	2	5
Vietnam	1	1	1	3
Philippines	1	0	5	6
Singapore	1	0	2	3
Indonesia	0	3	3	6
Myanmar	0	3	2	5
Kyrgyzstan	0	2	2	4
Mongolia	0	1	8	9
Pakistan	0	1	4	5
Turkmenistan	0	1	1	2
Tajikistan	0	1	0	1
United Arab Emirates	0	1	0	1
Syrian Arab Republic	0	0	1	1

*As of 9 p.m.

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Biñan	Oct. 13-15
Urdaneta	Oct. 16-18
Los Baños	Oct. 19-21
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Sucat	Oct. 31-Nov. 2
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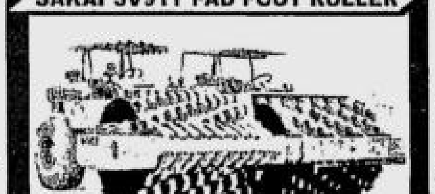

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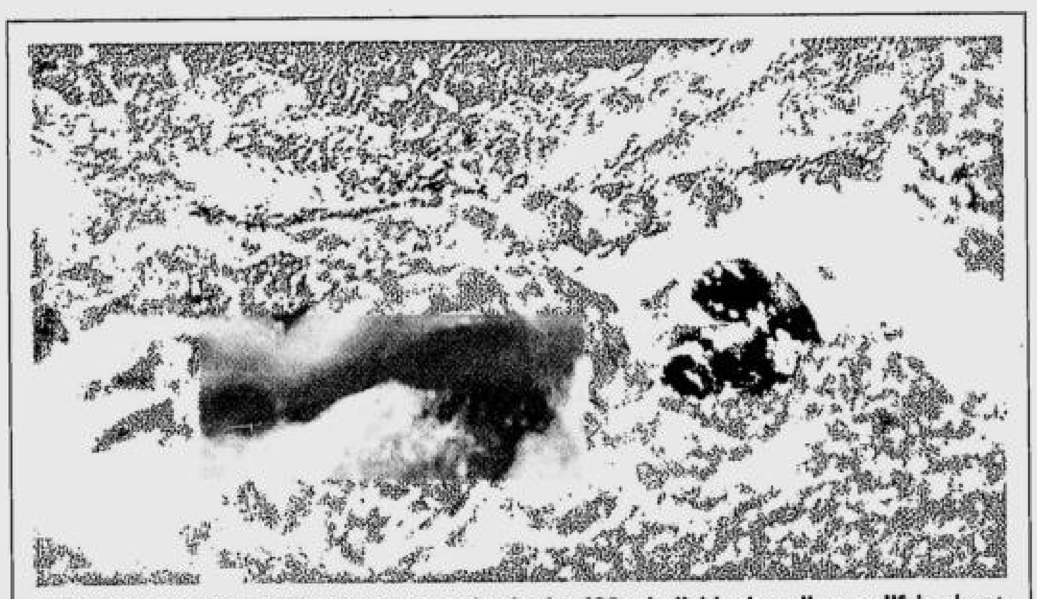
Jins arrive, aim to beat tough Koreans



CARLO Piccio of the Philippines competing in the 400m individual medley qualifying heat of the swimming competitions in the Busan Asian Games yesterday. JESS YUSON

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—They've trained hard under a Korean master. They've pitted skills against the world's bests. It's the turn of the Filipino taekwondo jins to show their stuff in the country where their discipline began hundreds of years ago.

The Filipino martial arts artists will arrive in this port city today to join their fellow national athletes in their quest for glory in the 14th Asian Games.

Led by seasoned internationalists Roberto Cruz, Donald David Geisler and Eva Marie Ditan, the jins are bidding to improve on their one silver, three bronzes showing in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad.

Cruz, of Talon, Las Piñas, is a four-time Southeast Asian Games champion and distinguished himself last year by snaring bronze medals in the 55kg class of the World Cup, World Championships and Korea Open.

The 6-foot-1 Geisler was the best performer in Bangkok when as a 19-year-old he snared that silver in the 72kg class.

Ditan, who majored in sports recreation management at De La Salle, matched Cruz's bronze in the World Cup.

Rodolfo Abratique, Margarita Bonifacio and Ma. Nelia Sy accounted for the bronzes.

Bonifacio is back too, but Abratique and Sy are no longer around.

Completing the taekwondo team are TshomleeGo, Manuel Rivero Jr., Alexander Briones, Dindo Simpao, Daleen Cordero, Veronica Domingo, Kalindi Tamayo and Sally Solis.

Accompanying them are Dr. Manolo Gabriel, Korean 5th dan Kim Tae Hyung, and coaches Victor Veneracion and Jesus Morales III.

In the same flight is athletics chief Go Teng Kok, who'll chart the tracksters' campaign starting Monday.

Also arriving today are karatekas Ernesto Halili, Junel Perania, Cherli Tugday, Ryan Bonifacio and GrethenMalalad and coaches Guiseppi Romano, David Lay and Jose Manansala.

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

GMA empowers Metro mayors to control police

MACAPAGAL

By Carlito Pablo

METRO MANILA mayors have seen their wish come true.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the National Police Commission to "empower" the Metro Manila mayors to exercise "operational supervision and control" over Philippine National Police units in their jurisdictions.

President Macapagal issued the directive, in Memorandum Order No. 77, dated Oct. 1, which noted that "local government units shall ensure and support, among other things, the maintenance of peace and order within their respective territorial jurisdictions."

The memorandum, however, did not order the Napolcom to transfer administrative control of PNP units to Metro Manila mayors, a power that will be retained by the commission.

Administrative control involves the power to hire and dismiss policemen.

According to Republic Act No. 6975 or the Department of Interi-

GMA/ A32

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MIAA vows to go to SC

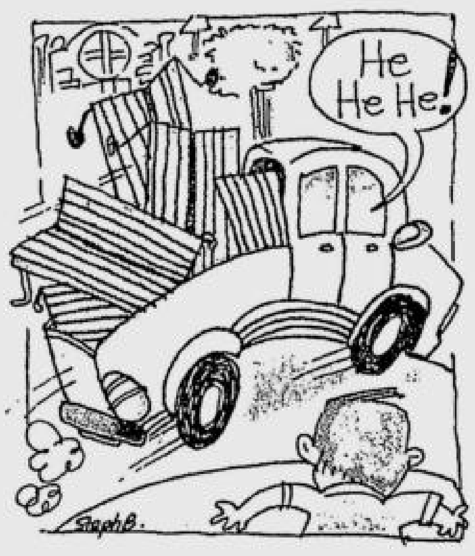
By Christian V. Esguerra

THE EMBATTLED Manila International Airport Authority yesterday vowed to go to the Supreme Court to dispute the appellate court's ruling that would pave the way for the sale of the country's premier airport through public auction.

"We will exhaust all legal remedies to protect the interest of the airport and the public," MIAA general manager Edgardo Manda told the INQUIRER.

Manda said airport lawyers would immediate-

MIAA/ A34



Hunt for bench thieves gets mired

By Philip C. Tubeza

ASIDE from looking for the 28 wooden benches that were stolen from the Roxas Boulevard promenade, police also have to search for the official complainant even as lawmen were set yesterday to hunt down the owner of the Isuzu truck that was used in the theft.

Police said there was still no official complaint from City Hall, no sworn statements from witnesses and no investigation report of the theft.

HUNT FOR/ A34

BOBBY'S GONE Singer Bobby Gonzales, 68, who recorded several Filipino hits such as "Hahabol-habol," died yesterday afternoon at the Parañaque Medical Center.He had chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, acute emphysema and stage-3 hypertension.

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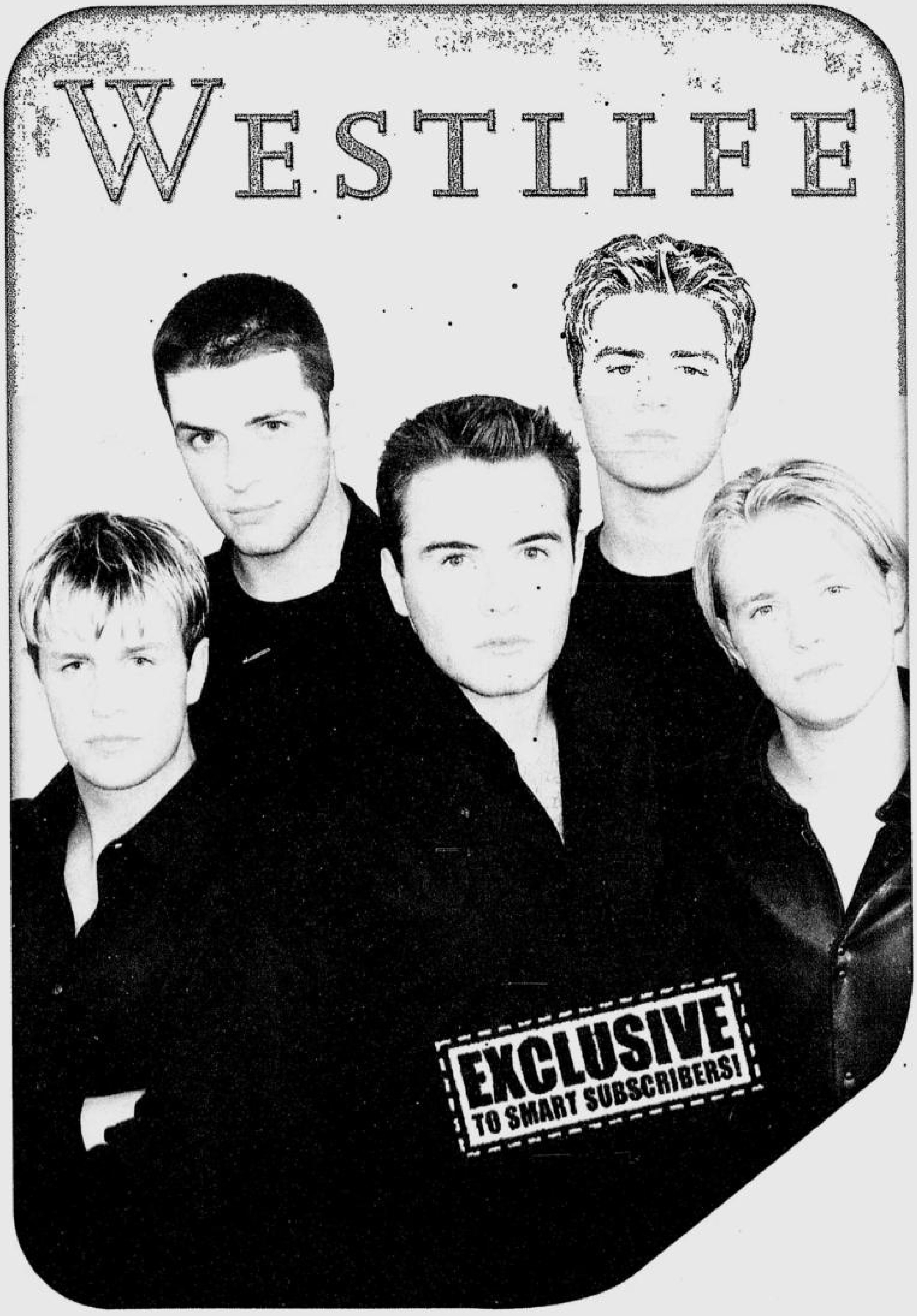
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CAVITE KILLINGS

Battle of the forensic experts

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE CASE of the three slain kidnapping suspects tagged in the murder of Baron Cervantes is turning into a battle of forensic experts.

A University of the Philippines pathologist yesterday stood by her findings that suspect Diosdado Santos was shot in the mouth at close range in the reported shootout in Cavite on Sept. 18.

Dr. Raquel Fortun slammed both the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation for criticizing her findings while withholding their own on the death of Santos.

Fortun, who was tapped to conduct another autopsy on Santos' body, called for an independent investigation on the officers involved in the killing of Santos, Rodolfo Patinio, and Eugene Radam in Cavite.

"I can stand by my findings," she told the INQUIRER.

"I have my pictures, diagram, documentation and all, where are yours?" she asked of NBI and PNP forensic experts.

In an official autopsy report released Wednesday, Fortun found that the gunshot wound in Santos' mouth was inflicted at close range, with his upper lip probably resting on the muzzle of the gun.

But on the same day the report came out, NBI medico legal chief Max de Leon claimed Santos had been shot in the mouth at least 24 inches away. He said there was no burning, tattooing, or smudging in the mouth.

"How could they tell that when they didn't even examine the mouth?" Fortun asked. "I took out the tongue and neck organ and saw the wound track."

During her autopsy, the forensic expert said she took a portion of the entrance wound and examined it under the microscope. She later found black pigments called "soot" (or smudge of carbon particles), indicating that Santos was shot at close range.

"You'll see (the soot) if you take a careful look at the entrance wound."

Faced with a dissenting opinion from another forensic expert, the NBI should release its own findings and squarely disprove the opposing view, according to Fortun.

Bulaong aide forgives thief who took her P30,000

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SECRETARY who was robbed on Thursday of P30,000 inside the Western Police District Headquarters in Manila yesterday forgave the widow of a police officer who confessed to the theft.

Susan Q. Asia, an aide of WPD Director Chief Pedro Bulaong, said she had forgiven Rosana Hernandez, the widow of SPO2 Rolando Hernandez, for stealing her wallet,

"I told her that I would forgive her if she would just confess to taking the money," Asia said.

She said the widow needed the money for her sick children.

"She showed me the list of medicines her children needed," Asia said.

She said Hernandez also promised to pay her the P30,000 she stole and the P500 the widow had earlier borrowed from her.

Hernandez was arrested yesterday morning, but she was still denying that she took Asia's wallet. Police said Hernandez eventually confessed after they presented a witness who saw her take the wallet.

The witness, another employee in Bulaong's office, saw Hernandez open Asia's Rusty Lopez wallet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, police said. The witness thought the wallet belonged to Hernandez, police added.

Hernandez was in Bulaong's office on Thursday to follow up on her late husband's pension.

Asia said she had left her wallet on her desk when she went inside Bulaong's office to check on Hernandez's request. She said that when she returned to her desk, Hernandez was already leaving, telling her she had to go immediately.

GMA empowers mayors

From page A0

or and Local Government Act of 1990, the Napolcom exercises administrative control and operational supervision over the PNP.

The transfer of the operational control and supervision to mayors generally means that local chief executives of the 13 cities and 4 municipalities of the metropolis can call the shots in the deployment and day-to-day work of police units.

How this will be fleshed out remains subject to a resolution to be passed by the Napolcom, which is chaired by Interior Secretary Jose Lina.

Lina earlier said that Metro Manila would be the testing ground for the planned transfer of operational control over local PNP units to mayors on a nationwide basis.

Mayors had been clamoring for control over the police, supposedly to give them more authority in ensuring peace and order.

There had been fears that such a measure would signal a return to the old times when mayors used local police forces as their private armies.

In her memorandum, the President directed the Napolcom to ensure that Metro Manila mayors "shall exercise operational supervision and control ... except during the 30-day period immediately preceding and the 30 days following any national, local and barangay elections."

In choosing chiefs of police, station commanders and district directors, mayors can choose from a list of officers recommended by the PNP's National Capital Region Office.

"The mayors may recommend to the district director or NCRPO director an eligible who may be included in the list of eligibles," Ms Macapagal's order said.

"The mayors of the cities and municipalities in the National Capital Region shall be given prior notice of the transfer, recall, reassignment or detail of PNP members under their operational supervision and control," the memorandum said.

Ms Macapagal said there is just a need to "institute mechanisms" to ensure and support the mayors' exercise of operational supervision and control over the police.

TIGHT FRIENDS
Oct. 4 is World Animal Day and also the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, but for the Malabon Zoo's Manny Tanco, every day is animal day. Celebrating with him are Assunta the baby orangoutan, Cheesecake the albino snake, and Gloria the tiger (background).
JOAN BONDOC

Unseized smuggled rice at Cebu port

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SEVENTY containers of smuggled rice landed at the Cebu port recently.

My sources at the Bureau of Customs said that Deputy Customs Commissioner Ray Allas ordered the contraband shipment seized two weeks ago. Allas is deputy commissioner for intelligence and enforcement.

But, according to my sources, Cebu Customs Collector Billy Bibit has not seized the smuggled rice shipment, disobeying Allas' order.

* * *

I am not surprised Bibit would disobey orders from his superiors in Manila. He did that when he was the customs collector at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA). He didn't obey orders from then Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva to vacate his post and transfer to the Clark conomic Zone.

Now, Bibit is doing the same thing. He seems to think that because he got away with his insubordination during Villanueva's time, he will also get away with the same offense under Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo.

Bibit, who must have gotten high grades in psychology at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), probably smells fear from Bernardo.

* * *

"Kayang-kaya ko itong si (I can easily handle) Bernardo," Bibit is probably saying to himself.

My customs sources say that when Bernardo took over the customs bureau from Villanueva, he had a one-on-one talk with Bibit. At that time, Bibit refused to budge from his SBMA post despite repeated orders from Villanueva for him to move over to Clark. Until Villanueva retired, Bibit never complied with his order.

The new customs chief Bernardo, according to my sources, promised Bibit the Cebu customs port. That was the reason Bibit got out of SBMA, the sources said.

* * *

Bibit's refusal to comply with orders to seize the smuggled shipment has dragged the name of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo into the issue.

The shipment, so the talk goes, belongs to Arroyo's friend.

Poor Mike Arroyo! He's a victim of ugly rumors again.

"My goodness, Mon, when will all this disinformation ever stop!" said Arroyo when I told him about the rumor.

* * *

My sources in Cebu said the shipment belongs to rice smugglers from Bicol, in no way connected with Mike Arroyo.

The so-called Bicol group was given the go-signal after talking with some of Bibit's subordinates.

But customs intelligence agents in Manila under Deputy Commissioner Allas got hold of the information and relayed it to their boss.

* * *

A syndicate at the Bureau of Immigration's office at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport is cashing in on the influx of Indian nationals who arrive on tourist visa, but who will eventually settle down in the country.

The group, reportedly headed by a certain Vallada, allegedly collects P65,000 per Indian national so his passport will not be left with immigration agents. A memo from the immigration head office says Indian tourists' passports will have to be surrendered to immigration agents at the airport upon their arrival. This will ensure their going back to their country of origin.

The Indians who cough up P65,000 each join their countrymen in Santiago, Isabela. For some reason or another, according to my sources, Santiago is the hiding place for Indian "TNTs" (tago nang tago or overstaying aliens).

* * *

The Indian TNT community in Isabela is so big it can afford to pay for each newly arrived Indian national P250,000 for a temporary residence visa (TRV). The amount, according to sources, supposedly goes to the Bureau of Immigration's board of commissioners.

A TRV is issued to an alien when he or she marries a Filipino citizen. Of course, in the case of the Indians, it's a marriage of convenience.

The marriage of convenience for the newly-arrived Indian is arranged in such a way that the male applicant, who ranges in age from 18 to 35, is paired off with an old woman, age range is 60-65! Amoy lupa na!

I wonder whether Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, who's a no-nonsense person, is aware of this?

* * *

Who is this Renato So, owner of those billboards straddling the railways tracks of the Philippine National Railways (PNR) from Makati to Paranaque, and why was he allowed to set up those billboards without authority from PNR management?

This writer learned about So when this corner exposed the danger posed by those billboards, one of which collapsed recently on a squatter shanty near the Food Terminal Inc. (FTI) complex.

PNR management said So doesn't have a contract with the PNR to set up those billboards. Hence, he has not been paying any lease or rent for those structures on PNR property.

* * *

PNR's general manager Jose Ma. Sarasola told me that So has been pointing to former GM Jose B. Dado as the one who authorized him to build those billboards.

But Dado denies ever having given So permission to set up the billboards, Sarasola said.

The unauthorized nature of those structures was only found out when one of the billboards fell on a squatter shanty. Luckily, no one was injured.

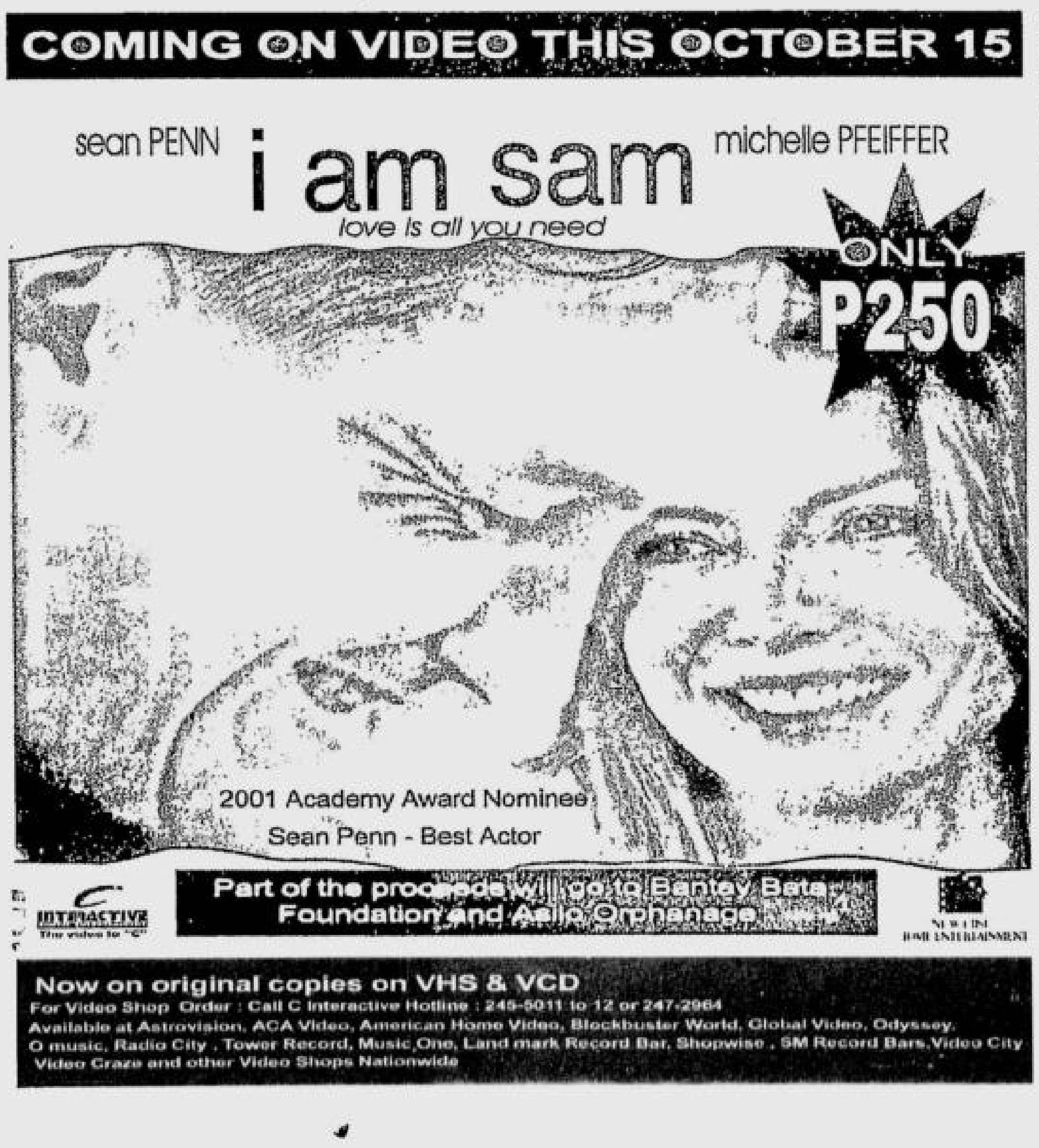
Imagine, an individual putting one over the government, in this case the PNR, for a number of years without being found out!

Socorro Manalo, 90

SOCORRO T. Manalo died on Oct. 1, 2002. She was 90.

She is survived by her children Oscar and Nenita Mercado, Carmelito, grandchildren Aron and Jane Cacho, Jong, Jonathan, Che and Clarize, Len and Digna, Alvin, Richie, Bambee, Noel, Carlo, Rommel and Mayson.

She will be buried today at the La Loma Cemetery after a 10 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz in Quezon City.



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But the dream turns into a nightmare when Mitch becomes unfaithful, and starts abusing her physically and emotionally. He expects her to accept his beating and cheating. "I'm the man," Slim's husband declares. "I work and bring home the money, so I make the rules."

Slim has had enough. With her friend Ginny's (JULIETTE LEWIS) help, she escapes with Gracie. Pursued by an increasingly dangerous husband, she prepares to fight back with all her might.

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6	K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
7	ENOUGH

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4	VOODOO

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9	ENOUGH
10	RED BLOODED...

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12	THE TUXEDO

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11	SPY KIDS 2
12	PROSTI

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4	THE TUXEDO
5	BIRTHDAY GIRL
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7	JOLOGS
8	ENOUGH
9	PROSTI
10	THE TUXEDO
11	REVELATION
12	REIGN OF FIRE

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2	THE TUXEDO
3	PROSTI
4	K-19
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6	ENOUGH
7	SPY KIDS 2
8	THE TUXEDO

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1	ENOUGH
2	THE TUXEDO
3	SPY KIDS 2
4	BIRTHDAY GIRL
5	ROAD TO PERDITION
6	REIGN OF FIRE
7	PROSTI
8	THE TUXEDO
9	K-19
10	RED BLOODED...

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2	REIGN OF FIRE
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5	REVELATION
6	TUKAAN
7	K-19
8	THE TUXEDO

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7	CLOSED
8	HIGH RISK

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6	PROSTI

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3	THE TUXEDO
4	ENOUGH

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3	SPY KIDS 2
4	K-19

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2	**THE TUXEDO** 10:10 MF/12:10/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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6	LEFT BEHIND

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2	REIGH OF FIRE
3	RAOD TO PERDITION
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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Hunt for bench thieves gets mired

From page A31

Police added that they were still not sure about the date and time of the theft.

Officers of the Western Police District Theft and Robbery section were supposed to go to a Central Luzon province yesterday to follow leads on the Isuzu truck whose owner had been identified and traced to a Central Luzon province. But police could not move since they did not have the necessary papers on the case.

"How can we follow it up, the papers are missing," an investigator quipped.

A police officer from the Ermita police station was supposedly the first to have noticed that the benches were gone, but the theft was not recorded in the station's blotter.

A witness had given to police the plate number of the Isuzu truck, but he gave it verbally and did not file a sworn statement.

The witness supposedly told Ermita police that he would come forward once he "is needed."

Investigators yesterday were still trying to check with the Manila City Hall special operations group (SOG) office if city officials had filed a complaint in that office.

Ironically, it was Manila Mayor Lito Atienza who broke the news of the theft early this week.

The 28 wooden benches, worth P1,500 each, were stolen along the Roxas Boulevard stretch from the US Embassy to Malate Church.

City Hall was earlier criticized for not bolting the benches to the ground. Unbolted wooden benches in Plaza Moriones, Tondo were also stolen last year.

MIAA vows to go ...

From page A31

ly file a motion for reconsideration once his office receives a copy of the Court of Appeals resolution.

Amid the controversy surrounding its Terminal 3, the beleaguered Ninoy Aquino International Airport was dragged into yet another mess after the CA allowed Parañaque to proceed with the auction.

Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez and the city's legal department met yesterday to discuss the holding of a public auction which was originally set last Feb. 8, according to public information officer Mark Jimenez.

The airport owes the city government P677 million in realty tax.

"We're beaten up black and blue," Manda said. "We're defending from all fronts."

He said that if MIAA was bound to pay realty taxes to Parañaque, the city government should have "forced the issue long ago."

"Obviously, now is the best time to attack us when we are besieged by so many problems."

The CA had ruled that Naia was not exempt from the property tax even if it is a government owned and controlled corporation.

MIAA's claim of tax exemption was also "berrayed" by the payments it had made representing realty taxes from 1992 to 1997, the appellate court said.

AYALA CINEMAS
Discover Art Film Greenbelt 1
DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

OPENS OCTOBER 9

Starring: Alex D. Linz, Robert Carradine, Brooke Anne Smith; Directed by: Tim Hill

Max Keeble is a seventh grader who is bullied by everyone in school. When he finds out he's moving to a new city, he turns the table on all the people who have ever picked on him, only to find out he's not moving after all.

Award: Best Supporting Actress (Brooke Anne Smith) - Young Artist Awards, U.S.A.

MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)

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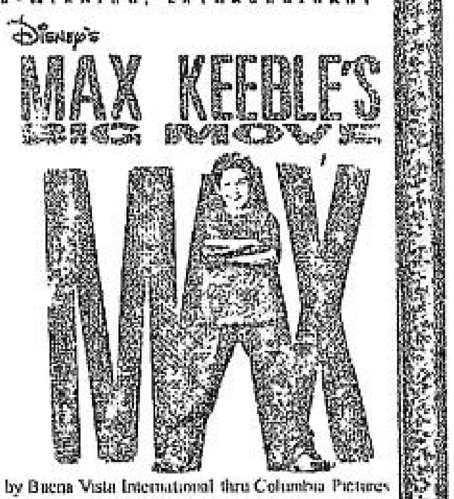

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THE TUXEDO	1 BIRTHDAY GIRL	IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	THE TUXEDO 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40	THE TUXEDO
BIRTHDAY GIRL	2 ENOUGH	STORYTELLING EXCLUSIVE 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	THE TUXEDO 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	2 BIRTHDAY GIRL
3 PROSTI	THE TUXEDO 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE (THE REPEAT) OCT. 11-12, 18-19, 25-26	SPY KIDS 2 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30	3 ENOUGH
THE TUXEDO	ROAD TO PERDITION		K-19: THE WIDOWMAKER 12:10, 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30	THE TUXEDO
	5 SPY KIDS 2		ENOUGH 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	5 SPY KIDS 2
	THE TUXEDO			
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Beauties in charity

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE MEN and women behind the Love 14 Foundation belong to the privileged class, studied in the country's best schools and are among the country's rich and famous.

But the Love 14 Foundation chair, Nini Licaros, insists that it is the foundation's desire to help the less fortunate that has kept the group intact for 14 years now.

Through the years, the foundation that is more popularly known for hosting the yearly search for Manila's Five Loveliest has provided financial help to hospitals and institutions like the Philippine General Hospital, Ospital ng Makati, Stepping Stone Learning Center and Gintong Pangarap Foundation.

Last year, Italian jewel-maker Bvlgari joined the foundation in its help-the-poor projects. The Love 14/Bvlgari Scholarship Foundation has been able to send 14 teeners to college.

The scholars are Diane Jean Infante, Baby Molina Gandala, Cathleen Ann Enrera, Cherry Lynn Ordona, Flora Mae Josol, Eleuterio Mayor Jr., Al Fariqh Bato, Jovilly Donna Vertulfo, Windylyn Jeruz, Lovelyn Hidalgo, Mary June Tesorio, Napolen Paul Golez, Maria Cresilda Pesito and Jovencent Cabotage.

The foundation did start as a purely social group 14 years ago, according to Licaros. "We'd been going out like a *barkada* for a time when we thought of creating a charity group to make the time we spent together more worthwhile," she recalls.

Starting small

Love 14's founding members include Licaros, Jennie Zamora, Mario Katigbak, Vicky Veloso, Robert Borja, Jojo Zabarte, Bechy Garcia, Robert Young, Glenda Barreto, Richard Ching, Mel Meer, Phil Himes, Donnie Ramirez and the late Mario Guttierez.

"We organized parties, invited friends whom we thought could help us and asked for contributions," Licaros says. "We started really really small."

The group was able to collect enough funds to host Love 14 Foundation's first search for Manila's Five Loveliest at a gala proclamation ball at the Manila Hotel. Chosen in 1989 were Licaros' daughter Roseanne Prieto, Patricia Panlilio, Audrey Puckett, Cathy Sta. Maria and Stephanie Horne.

Also that year, the foundation financed an outreach program for handicapped patients of the Stepping Stone Learning Center in Makati. In 1990, Love 14 helped in upgrading the Burns Unit of the PGH.

Love 14 Foundation refocused its intentions from health to education on Bvlgari's request, says Licaros. The foundation wrote to private and public schools, reviewed their recommendations and assigned a review committee to screen the students.

"We give a stipend to students who cannot afford transportation," she says.

The foundation celebrated its first 14 years last Sept. 4 in a gala proclamation ball at the Shangri-la Hotel in Makati, during which the 14 scholars and their parents were presented. Also present that night were Manila's Five Loveliest 2003, Pamela Ayson, Tracy Abad, Mitch Robles, Christine Yam and Isabel Lagdameo.

Winning tandem

"The beauties are in a way also responsible for seeing to it that these fourteen kids get their college degrees," Licaros says.

The foundation was not spared by the 1998 Asian economic crisis. Of its 14 members, only five remained active then, and all wanted to shelve the foundation projects.

"Nobody wanted to take the post from Robert Young, who was then president," she says. "I felt I had to do something or else all our hard work would be put to waste." She agreed to be president only if colleague Irene Martel Francisco agreed to be the chair.

Their tandem proved to be very successful. "After that, it's either I am the president and Irene is the chair, or she is president and I am chair," she says.

Institutions like the Bethlehem House of Bread-Home for Malnourished children, the Home for the Angels, and the parish of Our Lady of Remedios in Camarines Sur also received financial help from the foundation.

"We were also into church building in Bulacan. Two years prior to the creation of the Love 14/Bvlgari Scholarship Foundation, we supported Bigay Pagmamahal, which gives care to people who are terminally ill."

LOVE 14 founder and chair Nini Licaros and one the charity's 14 scholars.

MANILA'S Five Loveliest (from left) Pamela Ayson, Marie Camille Therese Abad, Michelle Robles, Christine Marianne Yam and Ma. Dominique Lagdameo.

Pag-IBIG housing design contest

PAG-IBIG Fund has launched a housing design competition which is open to 4th and 5th year architecture and civil engineering students enrolled in recognized schools.

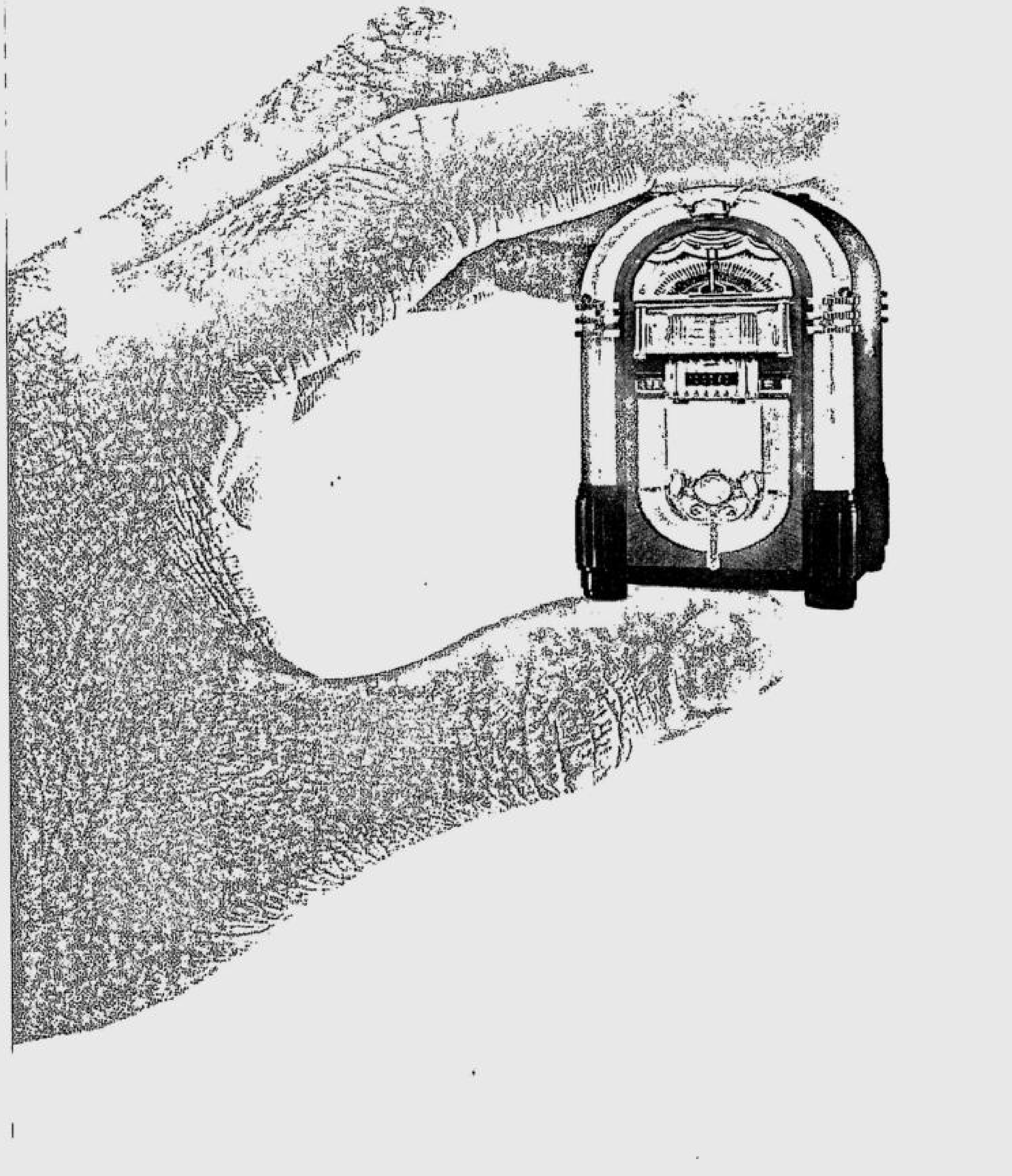
The contest requires a full architectural design of a residential unit with emphasis on proper planning, building aesthetics and design.

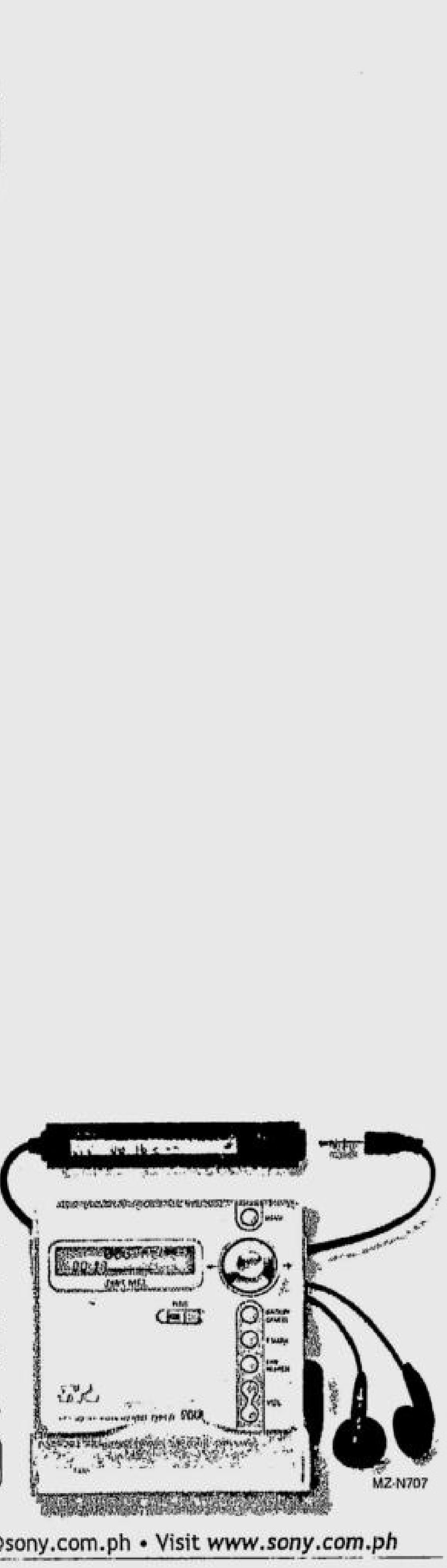
The competition is divided into Category I for construction cost not exceeding P100,000, and Category II for those costing not more than P500,000.

The first prize winner will receive P50,000; second prize, P25,000; and third prize, P15,000.

Interested students may get their registration forms from their schools. Deadline for registration is Nov. 4, 2002. All design entries should be submitted to the nearest Pag-IBIG office on or before Nov. 18, 2002.

For more information, visit or call any Pag-IBIG office nationwide or call the Pag-IBIG head office at 811-4401 local 309.





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Drug raps vs chemist

By Agnes E. Donato

ILLEGAL drugs charges have been filed against a police forensic chemist who allegedly took 260 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) from the Philippine National Police crime laboratory in June.

Insp. Delfin Torregoza was also charged with illegal possession of firearms before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court. He was allegedly carrying an unlicensed .45-caliber pistol when he was arrested last Monday.

Chief Inspector Prudencio Enojo Jr. filed the complaint and said Torregoza went missing after after he took the 260 grams of shabu from the PNP crime laboratory on June 6.

The drugs were supposed to be presented as evidence in court, Torregoza allegedly told national police officials.

But despite repeated attempts of his superiors to contact him through his relatives, Torregoza failed to report for work or return the evidence.

He only showed up again at Camp Crame at 4:30 a.m. of Sept. 6, purportedly to return the illegal drugs he had taken.

Senior Supt. Restituto Mosqueda immediately summoned Torregoza to his office and asked the latter to explain his unauthorized absence.

While Torregoza reported to Mosqueda, other policemen searched the suspect's black bag. They allegedly found four transparent bags containing white crystalline substance, which later turned out to be shabu, and the unlicensed gun with ammunition.

Enojo added that Torregoza's urine sample had tested positive of shabu content.

Torregoza is now detained at the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group headquarters in Camp Crame.

Assistant City Prosecutor Ma. Teresa de Guzman recommended bail of P80,000 for Torregoza.

Truck kills boy, 10

A ROAD accident in Quezon City killed a 10-year-old boy and left another child in serious condition on Wednesday night.

The dead boy was identified as John Luigi Nicolas of Baesa, Quezon City. The victim suffered massive head and body injuries.

His brother Patrick, 8, was in serious condition at the Philippine General Hospital.

PO3 Ricardo Escorpiso of the Quezon City Traffic Sector 6 said the accident occurred at 6:20 p.m. Wednesday along Quirino Highway.

Lily Lopez, grandmother of the boys, said they were crossing the highway when a cement mixer truck (WHZ-684) driven by Edwin Manarang, 33, suddenly appeared.

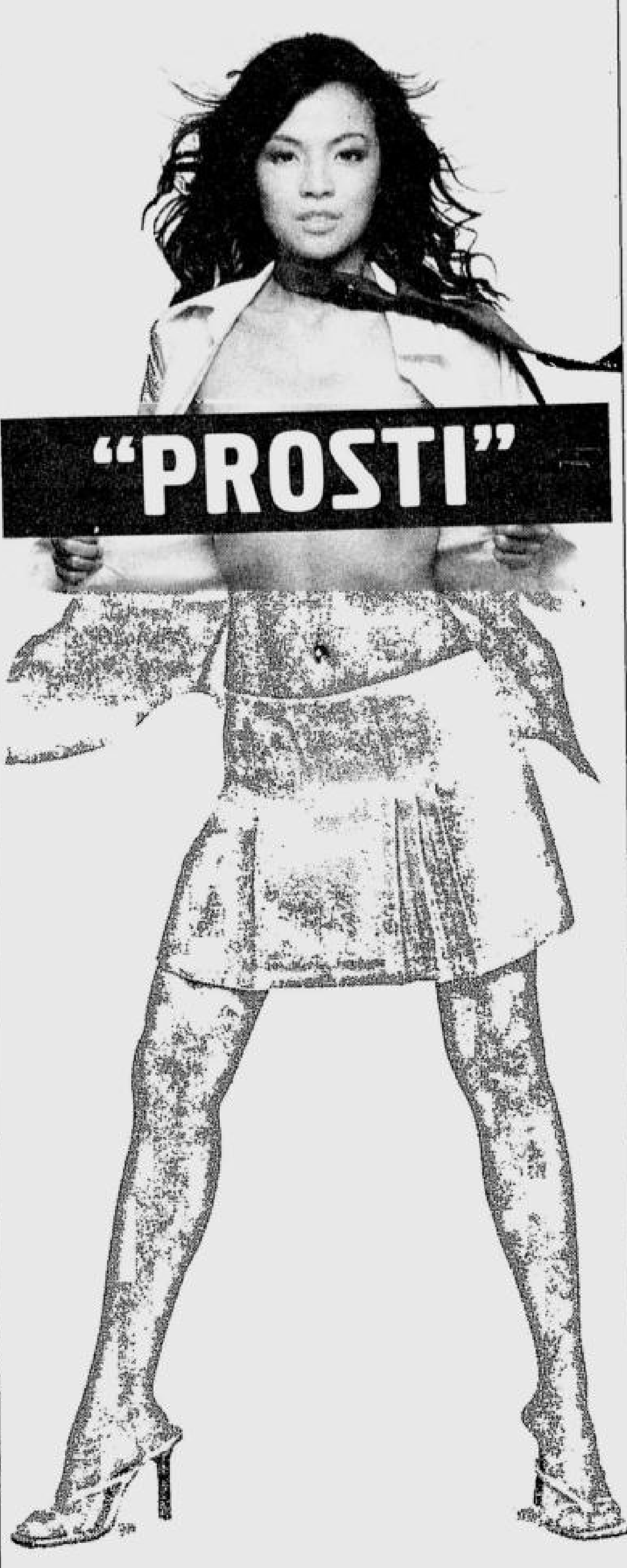
Lopez was able to avoid being hit but the two boys were not so lucky.

Driver Manarang surrendered himself to police.

Alcuin Papa

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ONE NIGHT STAND / DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
ODEON	TUXEDO
ODEON-2	SAM OF ALL FEAR/IKA-PITONG GLORIA
ROBEN	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SORORITY BOYS KILLING ME SOFTLY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
REMAR	TUXEDO
REMAR-2	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PROSTI
B	TUXEDO
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ENOUGH
CINEMA-2	K19 THE WIDOW MAKER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
CINEMA-2	TUKAAN
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-6	VAN WILDER
CINEMA-7	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-8	VOODOO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	K19 WIDOWMAKER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ENOUGH
CINEMA-12	ROAD TO PERDITION
CINEMA-14	REIGN OF FIRE
CINEMA-15	REVELATION
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	[illegible]
CINEMA 2	ORANGE COUNTY (WED) SPIRIT (SAT)
CINEMA 3	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA 4	BOURNE IDENTITY
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



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TUXEDO P13 11:00,1:00,3:05, 5:10,7:20,9:30	ENOUGH P13 12:20,2:45,5:10, 7:35,10:00	TUXEDO P13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00

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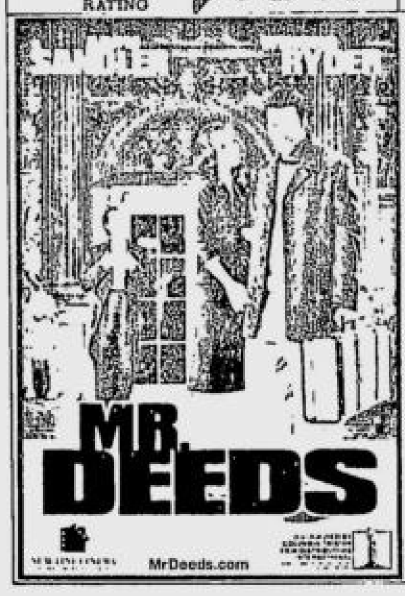

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'Deeds,' funny Date Movie!

Laugh, fall in love! Opens Oct.9

Adam Sandler is Longfellow Deeds, a lovable small-town guy who runs a pizzeria and writes greeting-card poems.

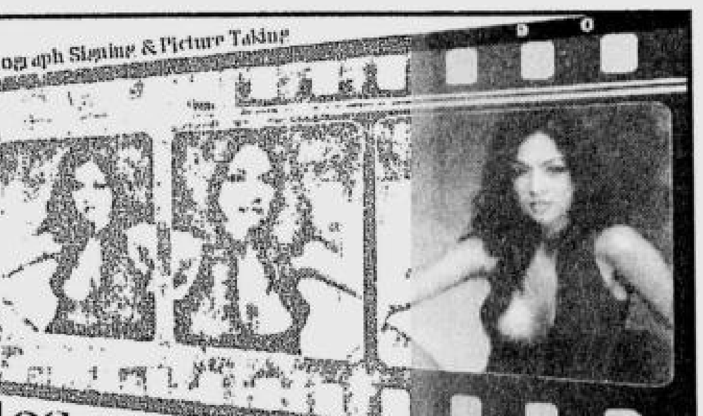
When he turns out to be the sole heir of a multi-billionaire, he moves to New York City where greedy businessmen try to take over the media empire he inherited.

Babe (WINONA RYDER), a tabloid reporter posing as a small-town girl to get the inside story, discovers Deeds' sincerity and big heart, and finds herself falling for him.

After *The Wedding Singer* and *Big Daddy*, Adam Sandler is back as the clumsy, sweet guy who gets the girl in *Mr. Deeds*.

It's the most fun you'll have on a date movie!

BRING A DATE, the laughs are on MR. DEEDS.



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Las Piñas elderly get free care

MORE than 20,000 old people in Las Piñas are now covered by the city administration's free hospitalization program.

Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar announced the benefit as the country celebrates Senior Citizens Week.

Aguilar explained in a statement that the P25,000 free hospitalization benefit covers the daily hospital room cost, medicines, laboratory tests, doctor's fee for minor illnesses and minor surgery.

A patient can only be confined at San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City and Las Piñas Doctors Hospital on J. Aguilar Avenue, which the city government has chosen as its program partners.

Vic Talampas, technical assistant for health, announced that as part of the celebration of Senior Citizens Week, the city health department also lined-up activities such as free eye consultation and cataract operation, free bone density analysis and osteoporosis lecture for the elderly.

Fidel Arriola, president of Las Piñas City Senior Citizens' Association, lauded the Aguilar administration's efforts in advancing the welfare of the elderly.

"In Las Piñas we take care of our residents, especially the elders, and we make sure that we will continuously provide them with the best and free services, particularly those concerning their health and welfare, " Aguilar stressed.

Also in the city, a total of 122 old men and women with cataracts now have clearer vision after undergoing surgery conducted by the city's opthalmologists.

Free cataract operation is also part of the total health care program for all residents. It is conducted in the city's lying-in center every month.

Trader crushed in van accident

A JEWELRY trader was killed early yesterday when his van rammed a concrete post in Quezon City.

Rodrigo Apo-Ipo, of Road 3, Pag-asa, Quezon City, was trapped in his crumpled vehicle for five hours, police said.

According to PO3 Gonzalo Villamis of the Traffic Sector 1, the accident happened at about 12:15 a.m. near the Muñoz market in Quezon City.

Police said Apo-Ipo's van was sideswiped by an Isuzu Elf truck. Apo-Ipo lost control of the van until it hit a concrete post. Rescuers took about five hours to free him from the wreck.

Traffic policemen are searching for the Elf truck, which sped away from the accident scene.

Alcuin Papa

'Wage hike, not oil price hike'

By Agnes Donato and Leila Salaverria

"WE need wage hikes, not another oil price increase."

This was the plea of the militant labor center Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) when its members trooped to the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) office and then to the Shell headquarters in Makati yesterday.

Spokesperson Joel Maglunsod said the KMU wants no less than the P125 across-the-board wage hike it has been demanding for the past few years.

Any increase lower than this, he claimed, would not be substantial enough to cover the series of increases implemented on the prices of oil products and other basic commodities and services.

"We would not accept any alibi from employers," Maglunsod said. "For the longest time, they managed to evade the wage hike issue by making a grand excuse out of the weakening domestic economic conditions."

Sammy Malunes of the KMU said government has failed to improve the workers' low pay "despite the PPA, the increase in the water rates and the oil price hikes."

"The wage increase should have been given to us long ago," Malunes said.

He also said the KMU would support the jeepney drivers' call for a fare hike because the need is there.

Maglunsod said yesterday's rally was only a prelude to a nationwide protest the KMU will hold on Oct. 21 to demand the immediate grant of a wage increase for workers.

He noted that instead of granting a "real" wage increase, the Macapagal government had so far only authorized "negligible allowances." He cited the P30 emergency cost of living allowance (ECOLA) given by the regional wage board last year.

Maglunsod also slammed ECOP spokesperson Donald Dee for opposing the workers' call for a wage hike.

"All that employers care for are their profit margins," Maglunsod said in a statement. "They do not in any way consider the miserable plight of minimum wage earners."

The labor group also hit Shell for imposing a 50-centavo oil price increase, saying that the oil company's move was unjustifiable.

"These foreign oil companies are conveniently using the imminent war (between the United States and Iraq) to implement a deadly chain of price hikes, at the expense of needy consumers and workers," he said. "They are even worse than kidnappers and terrorists."

Maglunsod also urged Malacañang and the Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines to act on the immediate control of the price of oil products.

Another militant group, Anakbayan, also denounced the latest oil price increase when its members stormed the Shell office yesterday.

Eleanor de Guzman, Anakbayan secretary general, criticized the president for her alleged indifference to the laborers' plight.

"(The President) has no intention of controlling oil prices whatsoever and now, even worse, she supports a war on Iraq that would not only endanger the lives of Filipinos and other civilians in the Middle East, but also the consumers in the world," De Guzman said in a statement.

Fake Lacoste shirts seized

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation confiscated P1 million worth of fake Lacoste shirts during a raid in Quezon City last week.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said his men raided Cutter Exchange Marketing on Kapiligan Street.

Wycoco said the firm is owned and managed by Ruben and Virginia A. Andaya.

He said NBI agents confiscated 6,551 fake Lacoste shirts, 15 sacks of unfinished fake shirts, a sack of ledgers and 35 sewing machines, all estimated to be worth P1.8 million.

Lawyer Rafael Ragos, NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division head agent, said the bureau began investigating Cutter Exchange after the lawyers of La Chemise Lacoste S.A. filed a complaint.

La Chemise is the manufacturer of Lacoste shirts. The company noticed that fake shirts bearing Lacoste logos continued to proliferate in the local market.

NBI agents confirmed that Cutter Exchange was manufacturing fake Lacoste shirts.

Using a search warrant from Judge Enrico A. Lanzana of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 7, NBI agents raided Cutter Exchange and found the fake shirts and sewing machines.

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MISS EARTH 2002
April Rose Perez of the Philippines (left) joins other candidates in Miss Earth 2002 during the press presentation at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila, in the second edition of the environment-conscious beauty pageant.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

CALOOCAN VENDING PROGRAM

Makati City clears its sidewalks

By Leila Salaverria and Tina Santos

WHILE Makati officials are dead set on demolishing shanties on the city's sidewalks, Caloocan officials want to open its streets and vacant lots to sidewalk vendors.

About 95 families living in shanties on Makati sidewalks have been relocated, as the city government intensifies its campaign to rid the sidewalks of illegal structures, according to Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

In a statement, Binay said the relocated families were given financial assistance, in compliance with the Urban Development Housing Act (UDHA), popularly known as the Lina Law.

Under the UDHA, families affected by eviction and demolition shall receive financial assistance from the local government unit concerned, equivalent to the prevailing minimum daily wage multiplied by 60 days.

But Binay said that only those families who have been living in the affected area not later than March 28, 1992 were given financial help.

These families lived in shanties along the sidewalks of Guatemala Street, Barangay San Isidro and Amapola Street in Guadalupe Viejo.

Binay said the city government had also tasked an inter-agency committee to monitor the development of the Philippine National Railways' project to relocate residents living near railroad tracks.

In Caloocan, some members of the city council have proposed a mobile vending program for the city's vendors.

Councilor and Bayan Muna secretary general Nathaniel Santiago, along with councilors Benedicto Gonzales and Ernesto Cunanan, have presented "a partial and temporary solution" to the vendors' problem by opening up several city streets and vacant lots for the hawkers' use.

The councilors said the temporary closure of streets and vacant lots not critical to pedestrian and vehicular traffic is a viable solution to the vendors' problem.

"The city government recognizes that the proliferation of sidewalk vending is a social phenomenon brought about by the problem of massive unemployment and widespread poverty, but we cannot just sit down and do nothing," Santiago said.

Santiago said the relocation program of the MMDA could not accommodate all the sidewalk vendors in Metro Manila, so the local governments must do its share in providing assistance.

Santiago said the city government is now studying the entire area of Caloocan to determine which streets or vacant lots can be used.

The councilors cited the local government code of the Philippines or Republic Act 7160 which states that "any city, municipality and barangay may, by a duly enacted ordinance, temporarily close and regulate the use of any local street ... and other public places where shopping malls, flea or night markets may be established and where goods, merchandise, foodstuff, commodities or articles of commerce may be sold and dispensed to the general public."

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
HARRISON FORD LIAM NEESON
FATE HAS FOUND ITS HERO
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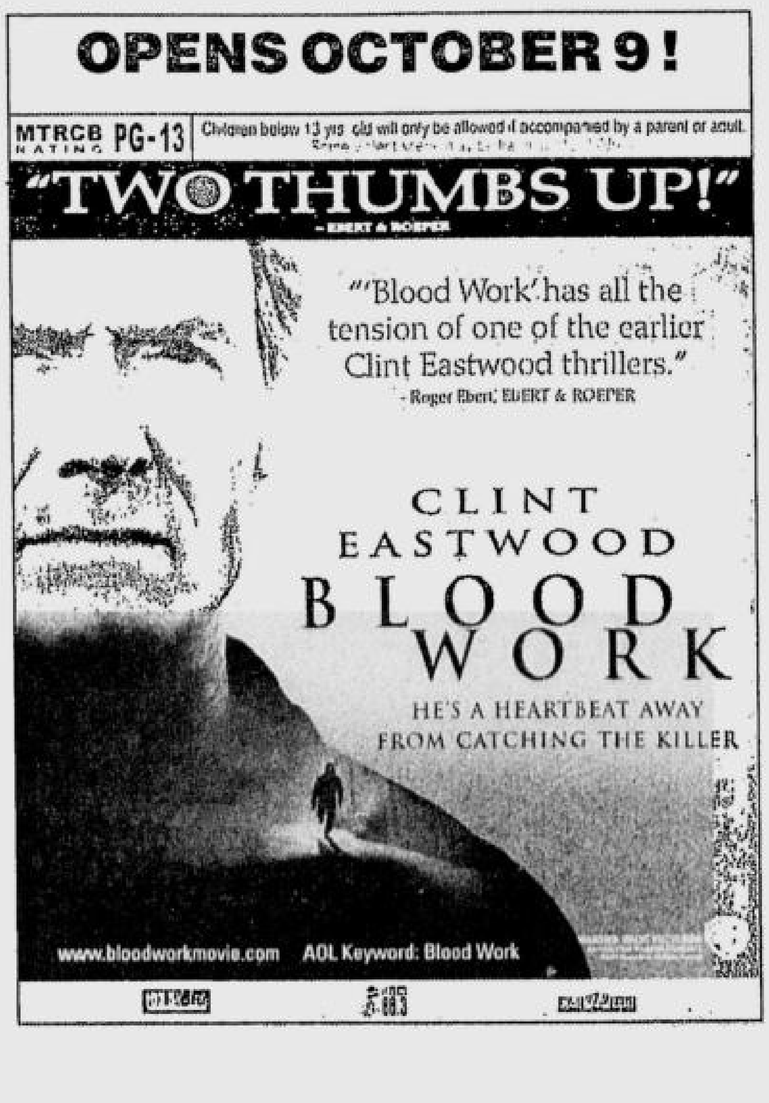
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www.bloodworkmovie.com AOL Keyword: Blood Work

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 5, 2002
26th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17
Gospel:	Lk 10:17-24

The seventy-two disciples returned full of joy. They said, "Lord, even the demons obeyed us when we called on your name." Then Jesus replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. You see, I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the Enemy, so that nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, don't rejoice because the evil spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven."

At that time Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit and said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and made them known to the little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. I have been given all things by my Father, so that no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and he to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said to them privately, "Fortunate are you to see what you see, for I tell you that many prophets and kings would have liked to see what you see but did not, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

Commentary

Jesus made the disciples partakers not only of his mission of proclaiming the good news of God's reign but also of the wondrous deeds pointing to such reign. Of course, the disciples, who were not yet clear as to their priorities, were all excited about the wonders they could do in the name of Jesus. What they did was what mattered more to them, because it also accrued to their honor and people's acclaim of them. Their attention was not so much to what their deeds were meant to be a sign of—the coming of God's reign on earth and the dislodging from it of the power of the Evil One. Something still to be learned more profoundly was that they were already partakers of that reign and chosen to be also its proclaimers because of God's unconditional predilection of them.

To realize this is what true discipleship is all about. It gives one a new vision of reality.

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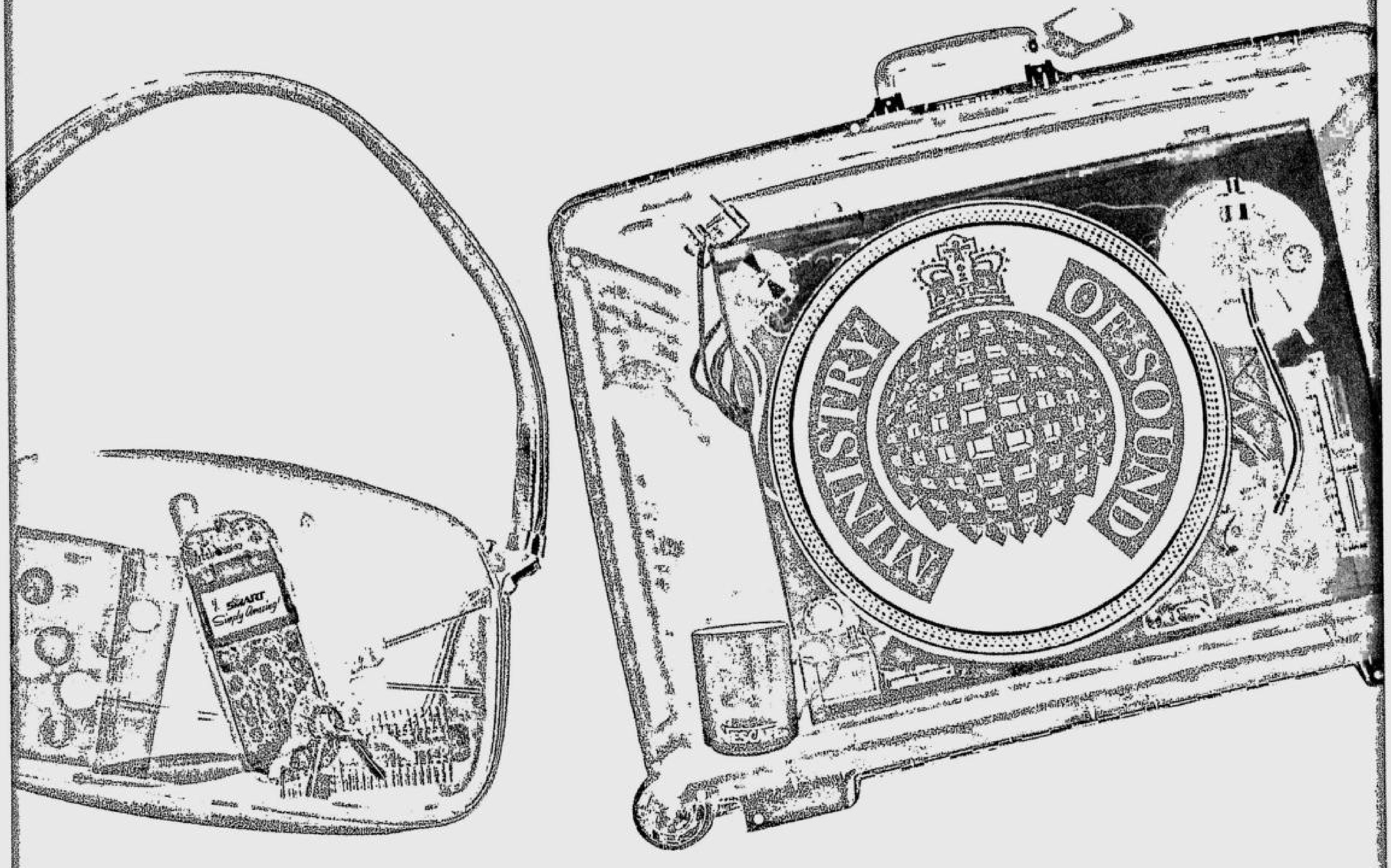
Simply the ultimate dance event



MINISTRY OF SOUND

NESCAFÉ GLOBAL TOUR

NBC Tent
Bonifacio Global City
Saturday 5th October
Andy Morris (N. Thrust- 'Safe From Harm')
TC (Big Fish)

Pack your bags for a tour of the original house of dance as SMART brings you the Nescafé Ministry of Sound Global Tour featuring DJs Andy Morris and TC.

Play the Nescafé Ministry of Sound Global Tour Trivia Game and get a chance to win any of the following:

Tickets to the event!

Be one of the lucky subscribers to win free tickets just by correctly answering the questions on your SMART celfone. Winners can claim their free tickets at the SMART booth on the night of the event. • Valid until Oct. 5, 2002 only; cut-off time is at 7:00 pm

CDs!

We're raffling off 100 Nescafe Ministry of Sound Global Tour CDs daily! Get a CD by just correctly answering 25 simple questions from SMART. You may claim your CD on the night of the event.

Trip to Thailand*!

Be there when we take the clubbing experience to the next level! From October 2 to 27, we're giving all SMART subscribers the chance to be a part of the final stretch of the Nescafé Ministry of Sound Global Tour. You and your friend could be the ones flying to Koh Samui, Thailand on November 7, 2002 for free!

* Inclusive of plane fare and hotel accommodation only

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- **SIM swap to SMART 64K Super SIM on the night of the event and get a free entrance ticket!**
- **Free Nokia 7650*, Nokia 8910*, Nokia 9210i*, Nokia 8855**, Ericsson T68i** or Samsung T100** when you switch to SMART Gold from 9:00 pm on the night of the event till 4:00 am the next day.**

Please bring the following documents:
- Valid ID
- Proof of billing address
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- Financial documents or any existing credit card

* Under Plan 2665/Gold Premium or Plan 3500/Gold Elite
** Under Plan 1335/Gold Choice or Plan 1995/Gold Select

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Promo Period for the MOS promo – October 2 - October 27, 2002
Promo Period for the SMART Gold promo – October 5-6, 2002, 9:00 pm-4:00 am
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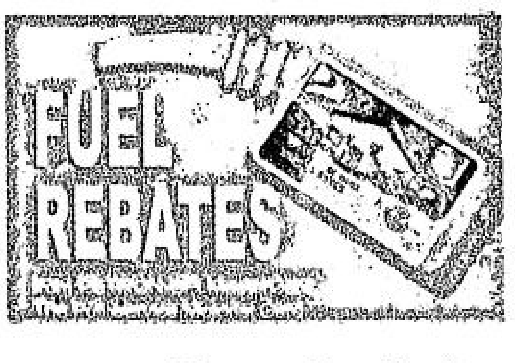
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-0355 Series of 2002

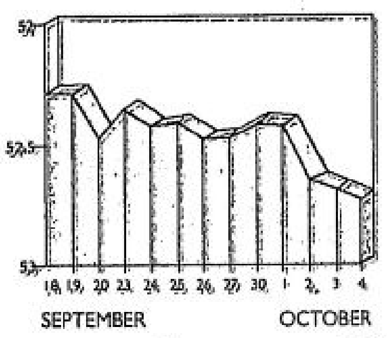
BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**



INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 52.725= $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 4, 2002

¥ 122.82= $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 4, 2002

GOLD: $321.80-322.30

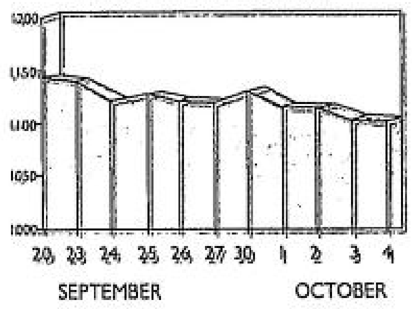
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 4, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares end slightly down

Shares ended slightly down Friday in thin trade, with most investors sidelined on security concerns, traders said.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 1.64 points, or 0.2 percent, at 1101.64, adding to Thursday's one-percent decline. The index has lost 2.5 percent since the start of October.

Blue chip SM Prime dragged down the main index, shedding P0.10, or 1.8 percent, to P5.60 on profit-taking. The stock rose 3.6 percent earlier this week.

Traders said security concerns kept investors at bay, following the bomb blast Wednesday in the strife-torn southern province of Zamboanga, which killed a US serviceman and two Filipinos while injuring others. Police said they believe the Abu Sayyaf, a Muslim extremist group linked to al-Qaida, was responsible.

"The Zamboanga bombing has put the Philippines in a bad light," said BNP Paribas Peregrine Securities senior analyst Edser Trinidad. "There is growing concern that Manila may be the next target."

AP

Inflation steady at 2.9%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S annual inflation rate was unchanged in September at 2.9 percent from a month earlier despite higher world crude prices arising from political tensions in the Middle East.

The benign rate has given the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas room to ease interest rates, which are already at 10-year lows, in the event the domestic economy falters, according to analysts.

Data from the National Statistics Office showed that the year-on-year inflation rate in September was unchanged from August and lower than market estimates of about 3.06 percent.

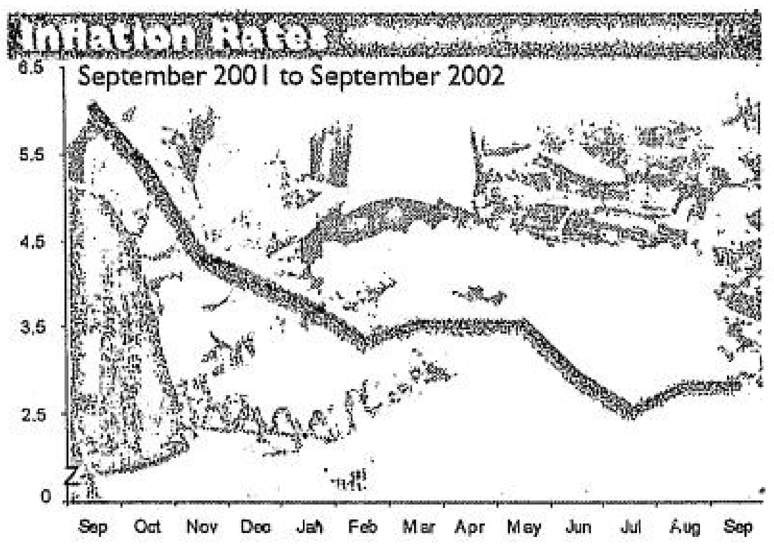
Month-on-month, the consumer price index even softened to 0.2 from 0.5 percent, as stable food prices and lower electricity prices negated the impact of increases in petroleum prices. Fuel costs dropped 0.1 percent month-on-month in September.

The annual increase in food prices was flat from the previous month at 2.2 percent in September, while the rise in fuel prices slowed to 0.8 percent from 1.3 percent.

Inflation measures the rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services is rising and, subsequently, purchasing power is falling. As inflation rises, every peso will buy a smaller percentage of a good. For example, if the inflation rate is 2 percent, then a P1 pack of gum will cost P1.02 in a year.

Inflation Rates

September 2001 to September 2002



"Prospects of relatively benign inflation rate for the remaining months of the year will enable the government to maintain its low interest rate policy," Equitable PCI Bank chief market strategist Michael Ricafort said.

"I don't think the level of inflation is a constraint on the central bank cutting rates, particularly if growth slows in the second half of the year and the US Fed starts to cut rates," said Graham Parry, a Lehman Brothers economist in Tokyo.

The central bank has kept its overnight

INFLATION/ B2

Peso continues slide, is Asia's worst performer

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO was yesterday's worst-performer in the region as it dipped further to 52.725 to a dollar, shedding 0.7 percent of its value from the previous day even as the Japanese yen recovered slightly.

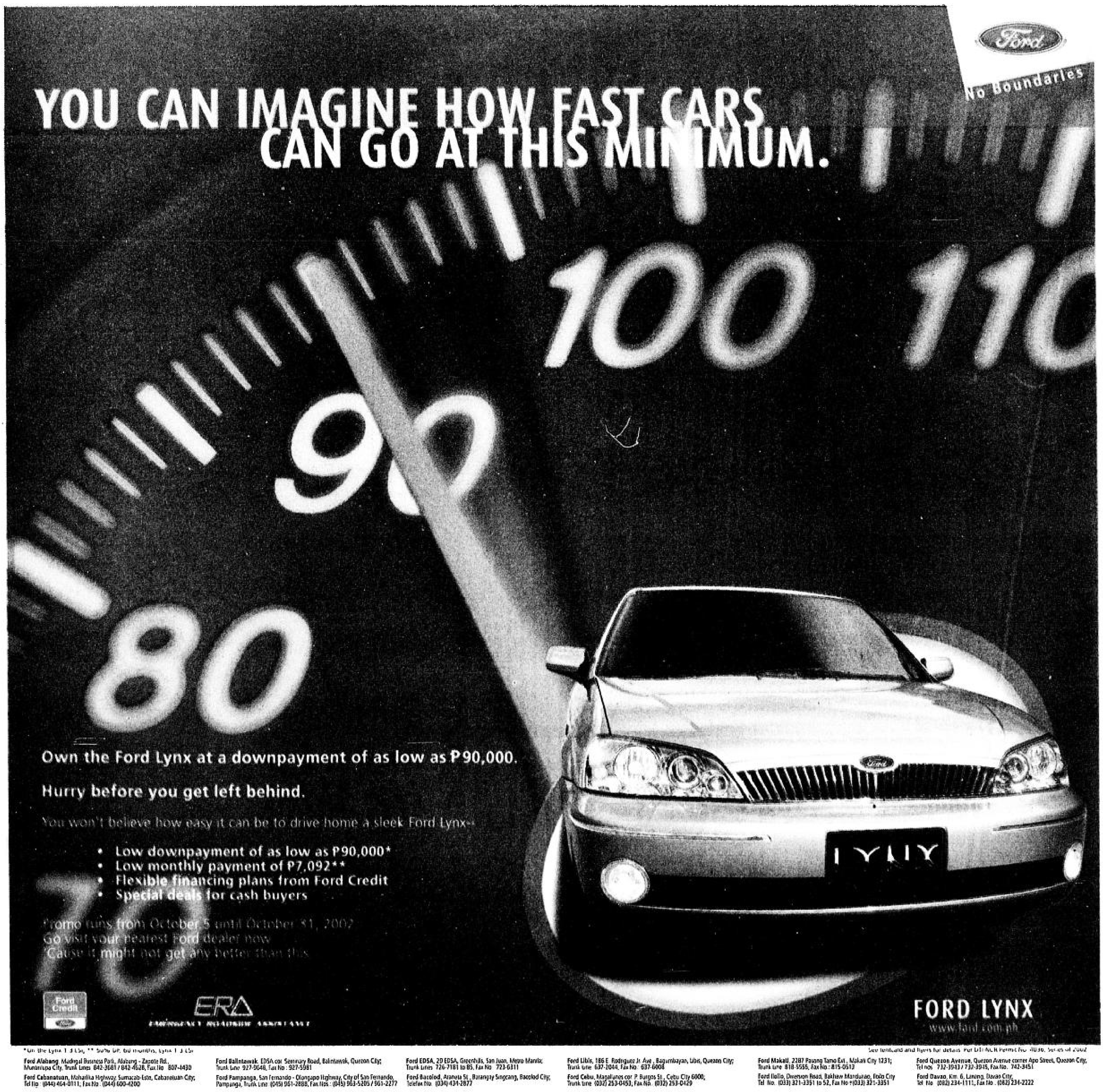
The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the peso fell because of strong pressure caused primarily by the oil companies' huge demand for dollars for their inventory buildup.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. stressed that the peso's volatility was temporary and that its value should improve in the coming months with the expected rise in the dollar remittances of Overseas Filipino Workers in time for the Christmas season. Export earnings are also expected to improve substantially in the last three months of the year.

From 52.68 to $1 on Thursday, the peso fell to a low of 52.755 in early trade before closing at 52.725. Transactions reached $114.8 million from $105 million the previous day. Tetangco said the BSP did not intervene in the market despite the peso decline.

Among the regional currencies, the peso registered the biggest decline in value from the previous day's close followed by the Korean won, which dropped by 0.16 percent, the Indonesian rupiah by 0.09 percent and the Hong Kong dollar by 0.01 percent.

The Japanese yen, the most influential currency in Asia, rose by 0.01 percent.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Whistle bluer

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ALL these raids, ambushes and bombings by the NPA and the Abu Sayyaf—well, supposedly they are the main suspects—can damage the economy big-time.

They advertise to the whole world, in effect, that we don't have to look to the Middle East to find war. There is a real war going on right in our backyard.

That's why even those in big business are starting to take notice. In small groups in executive suites nowadays, they even talk about police and military affairs.

For even if those in big business are able to fight kidnapping by encircling themselves with bodyguards, they can hardly do anything about…well, terrorism.

And so they talk about the way this cute administration, for instance, handles the military, such as in the selection of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces.

I just attended a meeting in which they said, well, how about we put an AFP chief who is going to stay there much longer than what it takes to watch a movie.

* * *

PRESENT company included, our AFP chiefs seem to stay in their post just long enough for me to finish only one bottle of beer. As college girls would put it, "It's sooo *bitin*!"

Nobody can say if, in picking our military top guy, we are following the style of Reader's Digest. You know—condensed!

Clearly, nevertheless, the practice affects policy making in the military. In business, they are starting to see the hand of politics in it.

Bypassed twice in a row, for instance, was AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling Jr., who even happened to be the most senior among the candidates.

In the inner circle of Gloriaetta, although he is also a Kapampangan, Camiling is whispered to be close to the man named Band…Wrist Band.

Thus, he must be perceived as a political hazard to this cute administration. Still, if you were Camiling, how could you have just snubbed your Commander in Chief?

So it seems, at least to big business, the AFP chief should be eligible as payment for this cute administration's Edsa debts.

If that's the case, what happens now to those assigned in Mindanao? Such a criterion may not be good for the morale of the military commanders in the field.

* * *

MEDIA tagged that PEA director, a certain Sulficio Tagud, as the apparent whistle-blower in a highway robbery—literally.

Well, it involved the alleged overpriced President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard in the reclaimed area on Manila Bay owned by state company Public Estates Authority.

The media tag of Tagud as the whistle-blower, at least, is based on the press releases that his media handlers, led by one Pastor "Boy" Saycon, churn out.

Nobody explained why Tagud took a long while to blow his whistle. It took him more than one year! Why he waited that long, press releases had yet to explain.

He could have saved us, the tax-paying public, the alleged overprice of P600 million that he claimed to have blown the whistle on, but he did not.

The alleged overpricing still happened! Preventing it was his job as PEA director. If his claim was the unadulterated version, I say he did not even do his job.

* * *

LATELY, the Internet burned hot with e-mails back and forth between Metro Manila and Cebu City. I found out that Tagud worked in Cebu City at one time.

The Bishops Business Conference even held an "emergency" meeting on the controversial PEA project, including the role of Tagud in it.

In the meeting were the BBC executive committee. The report from the BBC Cebu on Tagud was not exactly flattering to the man.

It turned out that Tagud was once the boss of Ayala Land in Cebu. Information reaching the BBC was that Ayala Land could have fired out the same whistle-blower.

The poor guy led Ayala Land into buying a property in the watershed area. This got Ayala Land into trouble with Cebu's civil society, including Ricardo Cardinal Vidal.

At one point, to clear up the mess, a bigshot in Ayala Land, who later became an influential person in this cute administration, had to rush to Cebu.

Why did Tagud, even if he had to wait for so long until he was blue in the face, like he did in the PEA,. not blow the whistle at that time? Gets me, too!

* * *

IF the DTI has this Intellectual Property Office, how come the same office does not do anything about the illegal practice of the US sandwich franchising chain Subway here?

I found that out from spouses Orlando and Arnida Javier, who operate three Subway outlets in Metro Manila. It seems the US firm Subway is now trying to grab their small business away from them.

It seems the Javiers caught the ire of Subway. They did not want to follow a Subway imposition. And that is, they should buy supplies ONLY from a firm appointed by Subway. Even if it costs them an arm and a leg? Even if it's murder!

But the husband-and-wife team reasoned that, for one, they could get the same supplies at much lower prices elsewhere. Why made the Subway-appointed supplier rich, since he is even a foreigner?

Also, under the law—the Intellectual Property Code—such a requirement of Subway is illegal. You cannot have only one authorized supplier of anything.

* * *

BECAUSE the Javiers were trying to follow the law, and not the imposition of Subway, the US fast-food franchise sued them in court. The case is still pending.

But even before the court could decide the case, somebody who claims to represent Subway put out an ad saying that the Javiers were no longer authorized to operate the outlets. A local law office, representing Subway, put out the ad.

Maybe the ad was part of the franchise fee charged by Subway. Aside from the royalty of 8 percent of gross sales, the Javiers and other Subway franchise holders must pay 3.5 percent of gross as advertising fee. But have you seen any Subway ad here?

Unfortunately, the Javiers could not get back at Subway. The US company was wise enough to have refused to incorporate here. You want a franchise, you deal with its agents. This mother nevertheless is as useless to Rosanna Roces as a eunuch.

If you have any complaint against Subway, the agent will have no part in it whatsoever. You have to fly to the United States, and you have to suffer the embarrassment of having your shoes inspected, a la Frank.

And there, you try to fight it out with a US fast-food chain which hires a battery of reptiles…este, lawyers.

Robinsons sets P2-B investment

By Doris C. Dumlao

ROBINSONS Land Corp., property development arm of the Gokongwei group, is set to invest some P2.5 billion to redevelop its 6.7-hectare property at the corner of Pioneer Street and Edsa in Mandaluyong into a mixed-use complex.

In a disclosure yesterday, Robinsons Land said it would build a new shopping mall and residential and office towers at the site.

In an interview, Robinsons Land and JG Summit Holdings Corp. president Lance Gokongwei said the new shopping mall would be completed in about two years, while the rest of the development would be finished in three to four years.

"This is a very good location. That will be the first major shopping mall in Mandaluyong City," Gokongwei told the INQUIRER.

Also included in the development is The Gateway Residences, a 28-story, four-tower residential complex. The first tower, One Gateway Place, will offer 435 units.

The residential project will target mainly the middle-income market segment, as it will offer mostly studio and one-bedroom units.

Limited top-floor units will be composed of two-, three- and four-bedroom residences. Unit owners will be given access to amenities such as a pool, gym and function rooms.

"There seems to be a market now for units worth P2 million to P3 million," Gokongwei said.

Robinsons Land said in its disclosure that One Gateway Place would offer affordable payment schemes, with monthly payments of as low as P18,000.

The property, which was purchased by the Gokongwei group in 1985, is currently occupied by the Robinsons Apartelle housing units and the single-story shopping center Mandaluyong Mall.

SM Investments issues 5-yr notes, raises $300M

SM Investments Corp., flagship holding company of retail magnate Henry Sy, has raised some $300 million from five-year notes it recently issued in the international debt market.

In a news statement, SMIC announced that it decided to raise its planned issuance from $200 million to $300 million because of strong investor demand.

The notes were priced at 8 percent.

"We are very pleased SMIC is able to raise funding successfully despite market volatility. The positive feedback from investors highlights their strong interests in the company and its strategy going forward," SMIC said.

It said it would use proceeds from the offering to pay its debts and for general corporate purposes.

SMIC said earlier it planned a global bond offer to take advantage of low interest rates in the market.

Investment banks ABN Amro, JP Morgan and Salomon Smith Barney acted as joint lead managers and joint book-runners for the new offering.

The $300 million in five-year notes were not rated.

The offering represents the first international corporate note issue from Asia in the fourth quarter of the year.

SMIC last month bought 6.2 percent of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. for P9.63 billion in a deal arranged by ABN Amro. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Inflation steady at 2.9%

From page B1

borrowing rate at a 10-year low of 7 percent and the lending rate at 9.25 percent for over six months, the longest it has kept rates steady.

But given the risks to global growth and the threat of a US-led attack on Iraq, economists said the central bank would lean toward a cut in the coming months.

"The current benign inflation environment will allow for lower interest rates, possibly before year's end and particularly if the Fed were to lower rates in November," Charlie Lay, an analyst at 4CAST Ltd., said.

Equitable PCI Bank's Ricafort warned, however, that rising oil prices remained a big risk.

World crude prices have been trading at highest levels in 19 months, as the United States continues preparing for war with Iraq.

JP Morgan said in a research note that the Philippines would be among the hardest hit in Asia from a sustained rise in oil prices, with the country likely to lose 0.17 percentage points in gross domestic product growth for every $1 rise in crude.

Ricafort said another risk factor was the El Niño weather disturbance that could disrupt farm production and consequently trigger an increase in the prices of basic commodities.

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SMC is developing a sustainable sourcing program of its agri-based raw material requirements which for now calls for the mobilization of at least 1 million hectares of farm lands nationwide.

We are inviting reliable producer-suppliers (farmers, cooperatives or corporations) of large volume corn, cassava and soybeans, with minimum of 500 hectares, contiguous or clustered areas, to join this project.

We are also looking for joint venture partners for sugar cane farming, with minimum of 1,000 hectares, contiguous area.

Offers for partnerships in aquaculture(bangus, tilapia, etc.), and in livestock and poultry production (hogs and chicken) will likewise be considered.

Interested parties, please send proposals and contact numbers to:

SMC Agribusiness
P.O. Box 271 Manila

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, October 4, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	31,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44	44	43.5	43.5	59,800
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	20,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29	29	29	20,700
First E-Bank Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	33	32	32	176,000
Philippine National Bank	28.5	28.5	28	28.5	23,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	400,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1050	1050	1020	1020	1,060
Sun Life Financial Serv.	820	820	805	805	1,570
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5	6,600
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	640,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	445	450	445	450	9,560
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	500,000
Piltel	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	250,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	270	277.5	270	275	60,890
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	21,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.5	18.5	18	18	25,300
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	30.5	28.5	29	492,300
Petron Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	244,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	70,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	117,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	21,102,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	7,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	13.75	394,300
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	35,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	54.5	54	54.5	149,400
San Miguel Corp. B	59.5	59.5	59	59.5	32,300
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.36	50,000
Ayala Corp.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	542,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.38	2.42	2.38	2.4	1,536,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	200,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13	13.25	13	13.25	85,200
Ionics Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	25,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	8,620,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,380,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cirro-Coal Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	5,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	8	8	8	8	3,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	250,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
Prem̃iere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.75	21.75	21.25	21.25	42,700
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	287,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5,895,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	60,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	1,472,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	1,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,600,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	410,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	3,524,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	3,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	3,000,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	20,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	753,830	12,958,000.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	58,485,950	145,813,505.00
PRO	13,122,000	53,743,160.00
Mining	11,000,000	28,600.00
OIL	20,200,000	58,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	103,561,780	212,601,265.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	425.88	UNCH 0.00
Comm'l & Ind'l.	1,528.05	DOWN 0.17
PRO	493.52	DOWN 3.78
Mining	1,096.92	DOWN 8.77
OIL	1.21	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	590.17	DOWN 14.66
Composite	1,101.64	DOWN 1.64

NO. OF ADVANCES: 7; NO. OF DECLINES: 21; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 64; NO. OF TRADES: 875

CURRENCIES

Oct. 4, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.012453	1.000000	52.6550
Japan	Yen	0.008258	0.008156	0.4295
United Kingdom	Pound	1.589450	1.569900	82.6631
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129809	0.128212	6.7510
Switzerland	Franc	0.684877	0.676453	35.6186
Canada	Dollar	0.636203	0.628378	33.0872
Singapore	Dollar	0.568155	0.561167	29.5482
Australia	Dollar	0.552800	0.546001	28.7497
Bahrain	Dinar	2.685623	2.652590	139.6721
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.269988	0.266667	14.0414
Brunei	Dollar	0.566091	0.559128	29.4409
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000111	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023259	0.022973	1.2096
UAE	Dirham	0.275685	0.272294	14.3376
Korea	Won	0.000829	0.000819	0.0431
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.987700	52.0073
Argentina	Real	0.270710	0.267380	14.0789
Brazil	Real	0.274303	0.270929	14.2658
Denmark	Kroner	0.134586	0.132931	6.9995
India	Rupee	0.020971	0.020713	1.0906
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.266471	0.263193	13.8584
Mexico	New Peso	0.099582	0.098357	5.1790
New Zealand	Dollar	0.483549	0.477601	25.1481
Norway	Kroner	0.136694	0.135013	7.1091
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017160	0.016949	0.8924
South Africa	Rand	0.097551	0.096351	5.0734
Sweden	Kroner	0.109973	0.108620	5.7194
Syria	Pound	0.022906	0.022624	1.1913
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029019	0.028662	1.5092
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000683	0.000675	0.0355

DISCLOSURES

MONDRAGON International Philippines Inc. has adopted its manual on corporate governance and appointed Jose Antonio Gonzalez as compliance officer. Members of its nomination committee are Fernando Adrias, Mercedes de Gonzalez, Basil Ong and Antonio Garcia. Gonzalez, Ong and Garcia are also members of the compensation and remuneration committee, while Faustino Roberto and Ma. Cristina Millan are members of the audit committee where Gonzalez is also a member.

* * *

ROBINSONS Land Corp. plans to redevelop its property in Mandaluyong into a mixed-use development targeted mainly for the middle-income market.

* * *

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. has bought 40,000 of its own shares at P32 each.

* * *

MRC Allied Industries Inc. will hold its annual stockholders meeting on Oct. 30, 8 a.m., at the McKinley Room of the Manila Polo Club. Only stockholders as of Sept. 27 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. has disclosed the resignation of Gula Margarita Santos-Qua as assistant corporate secretary. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Australian mining firm pulls out of Mindanao

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AUSTRALIAN mining giant Western Mining Corp. (WMC) is pulling out of the Philippines after pumping in $39 million to explore mineral resources in the Tampakan copper project in Mindanao over the last seven years. WMC Philippines Inc. general manager Ian Smith wrote a letter to Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez informing the government of the company's withdrawal of its interest from the Philippines after its evaluation of the Tampakan project showed that the mine would not yield the rate of return set by the WMC group of companies worldwide based on poor market conditions.

A source said the weakness in copper prices have made the project unviable based on the results of a 1998 study which showed that the Cotabato-based Tampakan project having a large-tonnage, low grade mineral resource of 900 million tons (75 percent copper and .30 grams per ton of gold at copper cut-off grade of .5 percent).

The project is still in its advance experimental stage which would be followed by a feasibility study before full production commences.

The Tampakan project is under Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement No. 2-95-XI which WMC obtained on March 22, 1995 or shortly before Congress enacted the Mining Act in September the same year.

BayanTrade transactions reach P5.4B

By Abigail L. Ho

ONLINE trading firm BayanTrade has processed P5.4 billion worth of transactions for the first nine months of the year, surpassing its full-year performance last year by 25 percent.

e-Catalog purchasing contributed P2.7 billion worth of transactions, surging 190 percent from only P1.4 billion for 2001. This was made possible by the more than hundredfold jump in total purchase orders.

BayanTrade vice chair and chief executive Carol Carreon attributed the dramatic growth in e-transactions to local companies' increasing awareness and acceptance of the benefits of e-Catalog procurement.

She added that the establishment of new industry-specific trading sites continued to drive BayanTrade's growth.

BayanTrade currently operates four industry-specific sites covering the construction, electronics, power and utilities, and banking sectors.

Carreon said the company expected to grow this number of sites, and was even bidding for the government's electronic procurement system as part of a consortium including e-business software provider SAP, computing giant Hewlett-Packard and systems integrator Total Information Management (TIM).

During the first three quarters of the year, the number of e-Catalog buyers grew by 51 percent to 244 from 162 last year.

The number of suppliers in the e-marketplace likewise increased by 42 percent to 511 from 360 in 2001.

The number of stock keeping units (SKUs) also posted a 31-percent growth to more than 46,000 from around 35,000 last year.

These SKUs enable manufacturers to maximize sales and create tailor-fit packages for different regions or market areas. This then leads to greater profit margins and efficiency.

In the area of e-Bidding, value pass through (VPT) or total transactions conducted on the e-marketplace, is also set to exceed last year's total. For the first nine months of the year, total e-Bidding VPT is already 93 percent that of last year.

Meralco says rates rising due to supplies

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MANILA Electric Co. yesterday said the increase in its purchased power adjustment (PPA) fee was a result of the rising selling rate of its suppliers.

The utility said it sources 65 percent of its supply from the National Power Corp. and 35 percent from its own independent power producers—First Gas Power Corp. and Quezon Power Philippines Ltd.

Meralco said the PPA is a mechanism that reflects changes in the cost of the utility's power purchases relative to its present basic charge, which was set in 1994.

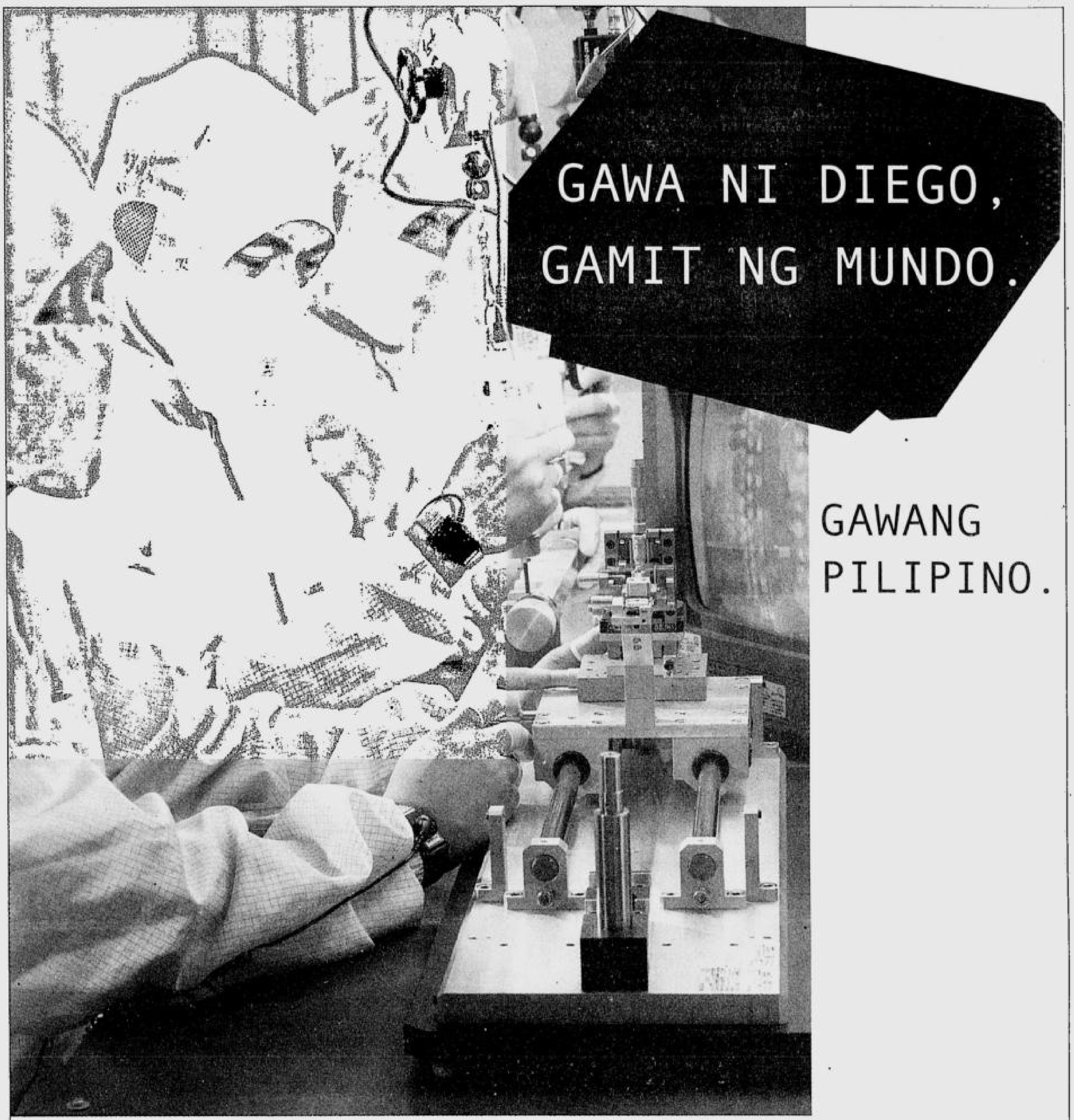
In a statement, Meralco president Jesus Francisco said: "Meralco's PPA is not constant since every month there could be changes in the selling rate of (its suppliers due to) movements in fuel prices, the foreign exchange rate and the energy consumption for a given month."

Francisco said this explained why the cost of electricity from Napocor has been going up despite Napocor's purchased power cost adjusment (PPCA) charge having been pegged at 40 centavos per kilowatthour.

Meralco issued the clarification after consumer groups led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan threatened to renew its protests following escalating power rates.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the PPCA cut in May amid public outcry against rising power rates.

Meralco data showed that its PPA went down to P1.71 per kWh in July from a high of P3.30 per kWh in April. The PPA rose to P1.94 in August but went down again to P1.89 for the September billing.



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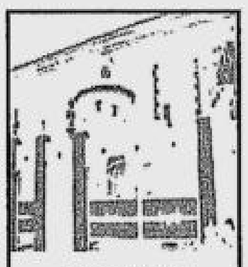

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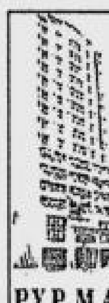

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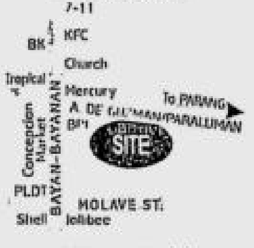

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CALAMBA nrLlanas Supermart 200@ 3T nice 6300747

PROVINCIAL

New Investment Opportunities Cavite Light Industrial Park With 1.98 Hec. Commercial Blk. Phase 1 Ready for Move-in Phase II at Php. 1,600/sqm Maguyam Rd, Carmona Cavite Tel. 031-4069/634-2956 Jonathan Brokers are Welcome

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000

FORTE REALTY
961-7521 780-4014
776-4604 815-2144
520-0108 810-7183
871-8318 810-8019
871-3249 873-0787
Welcome Brokers & Agents
visit us at
www.forterealty.com

LOT

PROVINCIAL

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m P186/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

2HA PLARIDEL BULACAN Beng 931-4466 or 912-4573

FARM/FISHPEN/RAWLANDS

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P186/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

RESORT

Calaca, Bats 1ha. w/2Bnew Logcabn, 3Fishpd, 3Cabana Viewdk, Free Flow Water Strong Elect w/Tel Line Margie 334-1272 • 447-8833

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MAKATI

Studio with parking Makati prime Makati Avenue 15T/Mo semi furnish Cell No 09176927482

MANDALUYONG

5BR 2TB w/ Dirty Kit. Grg Terrace 24 Wtr Call 532-4742

PARANAQUE

Merville 4br 520-0075

QUEZON CITY

17L Lantana 722-2222 QC

2BR NR ATENEO 16T6819727

Brand New 3Brm 2TB Family Rm Cap. Est.2 Cmwlth Ever 932-9114 • (0918) 9239155

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

ALFARO 80 F/F 4578041

Asia Tower 1BR w/ Parking 54SM T-560-0058/848-5326

Furnished Condominium 120 Sqm Two Bedrooms with Parking Lafayette one cor Leviste and Cedeno Makati Call Suyin Carino 8509588 or 09178967396

Makati Ave 11T F/F 4578041

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL

QUEZON CITY

JUBILEE VILLAS

Celebrate Life Create Happy Memories
Newly Constructed Top Quality Units
PRIME LOCATION
3 bedrooms w/2 T&B, living, dining & kitchen area, attic, maid's room w/T&B, laundry area
2-car garage
CUSTOMIZED INTERIOR COLORS
OFA 110 - 135 SQM
INDIVIDUAL LOT TITLE
Underground utilities, cable TV provisions, swimming pool, secured compound.
PHASE 1, 7 UNITS SOLD OUT
PHASE 2, 4 UNITS AVLBLE
CONSTRUCTION ON-GOING
PRICES START AT 3.0 M
EASY PAYMENT TERMS BANK FINANCING AVAILABLE
RESERVE NOW
VISIT US TODAY AND VIEW OUR MODEL UNIT
80 BANLAT ROAD, TANDANG SORA, QUEZON CITY
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL
ZITRO REAL ESTATE
Tels 8182781, 7515472
Email jubvilla@info.com.ph
www.jubileevillas.com
HLURB License #04012

PRIME COMMERCIAL FOR RENT
East Avenue beside SSS
Vacant Lot 2,952 sqm.
Frontage - 21 Meters
Rent P250/Sqm./Month
Telephone Nos.
818-2781 / 751-5472

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANDALUYONG

Citiland Wack Wack Condo Studio Furn • Call 372-2298

For Rent Condo P10T/mo. 1BR Cityland Shaw 29m² S-Furnish Nr Megamall, 533-4475 • 0917-2040461

QUEZON CITY

2BR w/grg NIA Vil Sauyo Virgie-Ernie 4547125

Nr. St. Luke E. Rodriguez Studio • 0917-8471311

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

163 BRIONES 7 AVE 3665197 5/T

MAKATI

Up/Dwn 2br 1tb w/Grge Nr Buendia w/tel 747-0101

MANILA

2Sty Apt near Church, Schools Tel 563-6677

MANDALUYONG

Nr Crossing Big Apt. 5315809

MARIKINA

nr Ateneo,Montevista 1BR/TB grge 7T; studio 6T 681-9583

PARANAQUE

2 Units Available 4 Rent 10E Street United Pnaque 5, Panaque City Telephone # Office-8263373 Res 7765609

2BN UP & DOWN APT. W/ GRGE. 2BR 2CR NO. 29 BOLIVIA 'P'QUE RES.-776-38-83 OFF.523-93-31

PASIG

2BR UP&DOWN 681-4095

Brand New 4Dr Apartment Bambang, Pasig City, MM 2-Storey, 3-Bdrm, 1-Garage P10K/month, 2-months dep Contact: GIL TRINIDAD trinidad_g@ditsi.com.ph hme: 641-1581, ofc: 240-8182 cp: 0917-8126825

QUEZON CITY

P9000 New 2BR Priv Cmpd Call 7274934 / 09196432776

Proj8 new P8T grge 929-2267

UP & DOWN CT 9268804 2599024 NR SM CITY

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

WANTED TO LEASE

Male, Single Res. Doctor Needs Place 2Stay Room Sharing Ok Pref'bly Near MMC Low Rent 09178391548 raviam@pacific.net.ph

ROOM & BOARD

Ldys Kamias 09204059409

Magallanes Vill. 852-6918

MANILA ROOM 8992148

New Ladies Dorm Nr UST Class"A" Tel.6451185/6810992

Studio F'nish Mkt 8992148

BEDSPACE

Aurora, Pasay 8 Males Near Makati 0917-8499749

BUSINESS RENTAL

Manila for rent business Billiard or Internet Cafe good location nr. schools besides Quiapo church Call TESS 809-8566 (10 AM TO 6PM)

Office or Business Area Kapitolyo Call 6341212

PROME OFF CONCRETE BLDG AVENIDA NR RAON T7356516

TEJERON Sta Ana 2Sty 2BR 16T 5630883; 09189017503

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigie/Ernie 8903461 loc. 25/23

WAREHOUSE/FACTORY

Pasig Whse 1200m² P55T/mo High Ceiling Call 628-0780

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

'00 CRV at all leather 750T 642-8555 • 0917-8408197

HYUNDAI

96Besta 145T As Is 7317984/6550

★94 GRACE 150T ★97 H100 225T ★98 Starex475T ★2001 Starex 690T all power Free LTO reg dual A/C Financing ok! Call 731-7984 / 6550

★Atoz 99 very cute looks like Echo 238T 7317984/7316550

ISUZU

Doublecab PickUp 1980 70T 3Doors Call 8239966

MERCEDES

99MB100D 385T A1 Cond7317984

MB 87 4 Sale Low Mileage Gud Running Condition Call Fred 896-8177

MITSUBISHI

'97 ECLIPSE 950T 8231928

Rush! 93 Lancer GLI 135K 807-6502 (0917)8351935

NISSAN

97SentraSS 280T Rush 7316550/6550

Vanette DSL 198T 9267433

OPEL

'01 Opel Astrawagon A/T P700 Neg T8263960 09178198456

TOYOTA

91GLI 175T neg 09202940811

98 TOYOTA CLOSED VAN Vic/Gigie 8903461 Loc. 27

JEEP/JEEPNEY/AUV

97 ISUZU Alum VAN P180T Vic/Gigie 8903461 loc. 27

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

BUSES/TRUCKS

USED GARBAGE TRUCKS Buy late model WM Inc trucks & equip online. View current offerings at www.salvagesale.com only authorize mktplc for WM equip. lots of 10-30 units available

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

CAR VANS 410-0495

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

HI-ACE L-300 9296250

L300 T7411356

MARIAN CARS BRIDAL VANS CSTER 8957247/8969956

MB100 Hiace Pregio 2973807

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

COMPUTER

•Refill Ink P280 @ 8830734

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

GILBARCO FUEL PUMP DISPENSER
★Trimline 10units@P40T, Mechanical
★Hallmark Digital-Dual Dispenser, Refurbished, Calibrated 20units@P60T
Call Andrew 0918-9188575

GARAGE SALE

All Must Go! Old & New! 58 12th St., New Mla., QC Open Oct. 6, 8a.m. to 3p.m.

JEWELRY

ANY ROLEX and Other Swiss Watches Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT ELITE PIANO CENTER Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

DOG TRAINER 4528681

★PUGS★WRINKLED 3725231

PRINTING EQUIPMENT

Power Operated Paper Cutter, Camera, Offset Press & Many Others Call MANDO • 522-69-25

SPORTING GOODS

BILLIARDS P30/33/36/38T A1 Olly B.New 8020566/8014494

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL EDUCL PLAN 8061574

BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH 09178142309/7269687/4123543

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

LANDBANK BONDS
WE BUY @ 100% of VALUE
643-5529, 0917-7922363 Ver

RITZ
FURNITURE/Used Clothing
P.Books/ Magz/Shoes/Bags
Utensils/Sewing Mach T.V.
Filing Cab; REF;Stereo;Piano
Call 373-2723 ; 373-2724

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09178473744

WE BUY GOLD
HIGHEST PRICE
CALL: 8380946 8390060

MISCELLANEOUS

B/SELL FULLY PD EDUC PLAN 780-0106 / 0917-7939632

Doghouse 3x3 FT 6341212

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

WNTD LIC. CIVIL ENGR Pls. send resume to U-443 Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower Pio del Pilar Makati Tel.-8170838•43•4812

FEMALE

COM PRO/SCN 9311684 ROSA

NURSE/MIDWIFE
Reg. / Non-Reg., Pref. Near Cainta or Pasig Call 682-2941

Tele Collector
P282 daily plus big comissions 4545606/9208220

MALE/FEMALE

URGENT OFC Staff/Personnel 18/45 w/w/o exp DIRECT HIRING Call 9134470 JOAN

★ CANADA ★
IMMIGRATION HANDBOOK Complete Do It Yourself Kit w/Official Application Form 936-2098 / 817-5511 / 894-4950

HRD STF 09194639391 IRIS

OFCSTAF LUK DONA 09163832647

Office staff 09186532375Molly

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

WANTED ASAP

F/T Tutor for Special Child

- Excellent Salary & Benefits
- At least 3 years Teaching exp. a must
- Willing to work hard including Saturday
- Female, at least 25 years old; with at least 125 lbs. & 5ft -2 inches
- 4-year coll grad & rel trng + var hobbies
- Committed to work at least 1 year

Fax or mail resumé with ref., Photo, NBI-Police Clearance & Medical Certificate to:

Attn: **Child Tutor, P.O.B. 797**
Dasmariñas Village Makati
Fax: **728-0435 to 36**
Email: **amfe16@hotmail.com**

DE LOS SANTOS MEDICAL CENTER

Accredited OB-Gyn is now accepting applicants for residency training.
Deadline: On or before Oct. 12, 2002
Tel. 723-0041 loc. 128-129, 413-1049

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Join Phil Tax Mktg 456-8634

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RAIDISITO JUAN LANSANGAN was extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No.415, Page No. 58, Book III, Series of 2001 under Notary Public Cesar T. Verano of Quezon City (PDI-Oct.5,12&19,2002)

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estates of the late spouses Concordia P. Portacio & Esteban M. Portacio had been the subject of Deed of Extra-Judicial Partition w/Waiver of Rights among their heirs on April 4, 2002, as per Doc. 36, Page 9, Book III of Notary Public Ernest S. Ang Jr. of Q.C. PDI-Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 2002

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that the S2 Lic#0463590 under the name of Dr. Violeta V. Casiguran was lost (PDI-Oct. 5, 2002)

PERSONAL

ST. JUDE NOVENA
Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preseved throughtout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus Pray for us St. Jude, worker of miracles Pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopelesss Pray for us./L Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answere. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you. St. Jude. - CHE

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN THRU PHONE p/line (02)8955632

Handicrafts / Xmas Fair 633-9662 • 638-9608

Invest P7.391
EARN P20,800/day!
No Selling! No Gimmick! Serious Inq. Only 928-4431

ROXAS BLVD. WEEK-END MARKET
Opens Nov. 9
P250/day
Visit us @ the site on Saturday & Sunday or Call 4101782/9257365/09169519287
Accepting Booking Now!

RTW P28.00 Up 727-4934

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

TRAVEL N EARN FR HOME 8531008 09178901851 Rlln earn-and-travel.com

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144/ 722-1155

Globe Telecom wishes to sell through auction, its surplus/used office furniture and scrap items located in Pasig and Visayas Warehouses (Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo & Ormoc). We would like to invite all interested buyers to contact the following personnel for more details:

For surplus/ used office furniture and scrap items located at Pasig Warehouses:

Mr. Luis Plata
Tel. No. 02-7466211
Mobile No. 0917-5880851

For surplus/ used office furniture and scrap items located at the Visayas Warehouses (Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo & Ormoc):

Mr. Edward S. Canora
Tel No. 032-4203226
Mobile No. 0917- 6888616

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE FOR FARMERS' IMPORTATION

The National Food Authority (NFA) is hereby giving notice to all capable and/or qualified Palay Farmers Organizations (FOs) Farmers' Cooperatives (FCs)/Farmers Associations (FAs) and Federation of Palay Farmers' Group (FPFGs) to participate in the importation of premium, fancy and/or glutinous rice under the Farmers as Importers (FAI) Program of the Department of Agriculture - National Food Authority/ Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC).

All interested parties are advised to accomplish and submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) sample of which is shown as Exhibit 1, within five (5) days from **October 7-11, 2002** to the NFA Provincial Offices in their respective areas.

For details, they may coordinate with the nearest NFA office in their respective areas. In Metro Manila, they may directly visit or call our Marketing Operations Department located at 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, and with telephone nos. 712-1928 and 712-1564.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R.A. ABAD**
Administrator

Exhibit 1

LETTER OF INTENT

LOI# ____________

I/WE ______________________________ (*name of cooperative*), with business address at ______________________________ would like to participate in the Farmers As Importers of Special Rice (FAISR) Program of the Department of Agriculture - National Food Authority (NFA)/ Philippine International Trading Center (PITC). Specifically, we would like to import thru the facilities of PITC __________ MT of ______________ (*quality*) rice to arrive on or before ______________ (*ETA*) at ____________ (*disport*).

Attached are the following documents to support the approval of our application:

1. Certified Photocopy of Certificate of Registration from ______________ dated ______________.
2. Financial Statement as of ______________, duly audited by an external Accountant/Auditor.
3. Original copy of. Board of Resolution # ____________ dated ____________, series of ____________ signifying our intention to participate in the program and authorizing ______________ and/or ______________ as our representative to transact business with NFA/PITC.

____
President/Chairman

To be filled-up by NFA
Date/Time Received: ______________
By : ______________

Checklist
- ☐ Certified Photocopy of Certificate of Registration
- ☐ Audited Financial Statement
- ☐ Original Copy of Board Resolution -- to participate and to authorize representative
- ☐ Grains Business License
  - — Retailing
  - — Wholesaling
  - — Warehousing
  - — Transporting

Basic Information
- Allowable Volume in bags for purchase ______________
- Networth (bags equivalent) ______________
- Capitalization (bags equivalent) ______________

Certified Correct:

____
Provincial Market Development Officer

____
Provincial Accountant

____
Provincial Registration & Licensing Officer

____
Provincial Operations Officer/ Assistant Provincial Manager

Approved/Disapproved:

____
Provincial Manager/Officer-In-Charge

(PDI - October 4, 5, & 6, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : September 29, 2002
Loan No.: PH-P200
IFB No. : SEDIP-2002-EQPT-JBIC

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contracts for Supply and Delivery of School Equipment to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines
2. The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of School Equipment following the schedules below:

Equipment Package	Number of Lots	Number of Items	Issuance of Bid Documents	Date of Bid Opening
A. Science Equipment	3	60	October 7, 2002	November 21, 2002
B. Math and Physics Equipment	2	48	October 7, 2002	November 26, 2002
C. Industrial Arts and Home Economics Equipment	2	48	October 7, 2002	November 28, 2002

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete items comprising a lot. A bidder may opt to submit bids for one (1) or more lots.
4. For the purpose of this bid, eligible bidders shall be those who have the experience in selling supply, delivery, and distribution of school equipment to remote areas.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents from the Office of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), 112-A. Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. No. (632) 636-6543 or 632-1361 loc. 2019.
6. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on dates stated in paragraph 2 upon submission of a Letter of Intent to the above and payment to the DepEd Cashier of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00) per set of bid documents. A set is comprised of Volume 1-Bidding Documents and Volume 2 - Technical Specifications.
7. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of not less than two percent (2%) of the total bid amount must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue Pasig City not later than 10:00 a.m. of the dates indicated in paragraph 2 at which time, date and place, said bids will be opened for reading in public.
8. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held at the address indicated in paragraph 7 on the following dates:

Equipment Package	Date of Pre-bid Conference	Time
A. Science Equipment	October 29, 2002	10:00 a.m.
B. Math and Physics Equipment	October 29, 2002	10:00 a.m.
C. Industrial Arts and Home Economics Equipment	October 29, 2002	10.00 a.m.

9. The DepEd reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and award the package/s to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary and Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 29 & Oct. 5, 2002)

TRADE & INDUSTRY

INVITATION TO QUALIFY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry is inviting DOH Accredited/ Registered HealthCare Maintenance Organization providers to bid for:

Program Title : **DEPARTMENT OF TRAQE AND INDUSTRY HEALTH CARE PROGRAM**
Period : **JANUARY 1, 2002 to DECEMBER 31, 2003**
Coverage : **NATIONWIDE**
Premium Rate : **PRINCIPAL MEMBER Php 4,000 per annum DEPENDENT MEMBER Php 910 per quarter**
Number of Employees : **AT LEAST 3,000 EMPLOYEES**

Interested Representatives/Bidders should be at least the 2nd highest ranking official of the HealthCare Maintenance Organization/System Provider and may request for a detailed TERMS OF REFERENCE, Executive Order No. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation c/o the Director, General Administrative Service, 4th Floor Trade and Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Tel. No. 890-4947 Fax No. 899-5576. Deadline for submission of eligibility documents is on **October 21, 2002** at the above address.

THE COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS AND WAIVE ANY DEFECT THEREIN.

(Sgd.) **ARMIN B. RAQUEL-SANTOS**
Chairman, DTI-BAC

(PDI - Oct. 5 & 12, 2002)

TUGBOAT FOR SALE

Excellent Condition
On drydock. See to appreciate
Please contact Nerissa
Tel. No. 527-70-80; 527-71-78

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The National Food Authority (NFA) is inviting all Palay Farmers Organizations (FOs)/Farmers' Cooperatives (FCs), Farmers Associations (FAs) and Federation of Palay Farmers' Group (FPFGs) to participate in the distribution of rice under the **FARMERS AS DISTRIBUTORS** (FAD) II Program of the Department of Agriculture - National Food Authority/Philippine International Trading Corporation.

All interested parties are advised to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI), sample of which is shown as Exhibit 1, to the nearest NFA Provincial Office on or before **October 11, 2002.**

New applicants should submit their LOIs together with supporting documents to the NFA Provincial Office while those already accredited under FAD I need only to submit an LOI.

For details, they may coordinate with the nearest NFA Office in their respective areas. In Metro Manila, they may directly visit or call our NCR Office located at United Nations Avenue, Paco, Manila, with telephone nos. 563-8717, 563-9451 and 563-9454.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R.A. ABAD**
Administrator

Exhibit 1

LETTER OF INTENT

LOI# ____________

I/We ______________________________ (*name of cooperative*), with business address at ______________________________ would like to participate in the Farmers As Distributor (FAD) II Program of the Department of Agriculture - National Food Authority (NFA) / Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC). Specifically, we would like to avail of __________ (*quantity*) bags of rice to be withdrawn in ______________ (*withdrawal point*) from ____________ to ____________ (*withdrawal period*), 200_

The NFA however, reserves the right to adjust the volume to be allocated to the farmers' group and likewise, the withdrawal points depending what is available and other factors.

Attached are the following documents to support the approval of our application:

1. Certified Photocopy of Certificate of Registration from ______________ dated ______________.
2. Financial Statement as of ______________, duly audited by an external Accountant/Auditor.
3. Original copy of Board of Resolution # ____________ dated ____________, series of ____________ signifying our intention to participate in the program and authorizing ______________ and/or ______ as our representative to transact business with NFA.

____
President/Chairman

To be filled-up by NFA
Date/Time Received: ______________
By : ______________

Checklist
- ☐ Certified Photocopy of Certificate of Registration
- ☐ Audited Financial Statement
- ☐ Original Copy of Board Resolution -- to participate and to authorize representative
- ☐ Grains Business License
  - — Retailing
  - — Wholesaling
  - — Warehousing
  - — Transporting

Basic Information
- Allowable Volume in bags for purchase per month ______________ (*not to exceed 5,000*)
- Networth (bags equivalent) ______________

Certified Correct:

____
Provincial Market Development Officer

____
Provincial Accountant

____
Provincial Registration & Licensing Officer

____
Provincial Operations Officer/ Assistant Provincial Manager

Approved/Disapproved:

____
Provincial Manager/Officer-In-Charge

(PDI - October 4, 5 & 6, 2002)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
OFFICE OF THE LIQUIDATOR

INVITATION TO BID

SEALED BIDS will be accepted by the undersigned LIQUIDATOR or his duly authorized representative for the immediate sale for Cash on "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis the following real property owned by PARAMOUNT FINANCE CORPORATION (under liquidation pursuant to Sec. 29 of R.A. 265, as amended) with office at Rm. 408, 4th Floor, Manila Bank Building, 6772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Tel Nos. 815-3986; 815-4028:

Item No.	Area/Description/TCT No.	Location	Minimum Bid
1	3,500 sq.m. res. lot TCT No. T-41001	Trinidad Homes Manggahan, Pasig City	P 8,750,000.00
2	2,366 sq.m. res. lot TCT No. T-372052	13th St., New Manila Quezon City	18,928,000.00
3	10,000 sq.m. agr. lot TCT No. T-32.630 (M)	Sitio Likao-Likao, Tungkong Mangga, San Jose del Monte Bulacan	4,000,000.00
4	850.50 sq.m. comml. lot TCT No. T-4803	J. de Veyra St. Cebu Port Center, Cebu City	12,757,500.00
5	12,900 sq.m. res. lot TCT No. T-16931	Interior Evangelista Street, Santolan, Pasig City	13,545,000.00
6	180 sq.m. res. lot TCT No. T-151159	Lot 2 Blk. 16 Aurora Heights Subd. San Pedro, Laguna	630,000.00
7	2,694 sq.m. res. lot TCT No. T-65450	La Huerta, San Antonio Parañaque City	2,693,400.00
8	2,360 sq.m. res. lot TCT No. T-32152	La Huerta, San Antonio Parañaque City	2,596,000.00
9	277 sq.m. res. lot TCT No. T-55987	Lot 15 Blk. 2 6th St., Riverside Mills Subd. Rosario, Pasig City	1,662,000.00
10	141.20 sq.m. res. lot with improvement TCT No. T-296329	No. 34 Bansalangin St. Veterans Village, Quezon City	1,820,000.00

Prospective bidders may see the description of said real property at the above indicated address where Bid Forms, Conditions of the Bid and other particulars may likewise be obtained during regular working hours.

All bids must be submitted on or before 2:00 PM of **October 17, 2002** at the 10th Floor, Multi-Storey Building, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, A. Mabini Street, Manila. Sealed bids will be publicly opened by the Committee on Bids during the bidding date in the presence of attending bidders or their duly authorized representatives.

(Sgd.) **ALBERTO V. REYES**
Liquidator

(PDI -- Sept. 26, Oct. 5 & 13, 2002)

FUNERARIA QUIOGUE
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We, the bereaved Employees of Unilever in the Philippines,
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Raymund B. Honorio

Peacefully joined his Creator
at the age of 29.
He is survived
by his loving
mother Cristita
and sister Grace.
His remains lie in state
at the Holy Trinity Chapel,
Loyola Marikina.

Dominador M. Medina

Peacefully joined his Creator
at the age of 44.
He is survived by his
loving wife Elsida and
children Melrose, Joyce Ann,
Donnie Ray and Mary Jane,
mother Amelia,
siblings and a grandchild.
His remains lie in state at the
Holy Trinity, Sucat Parañaque.

Eduardo B. Noveloso

Peacefully joined his Creator
at the age of 45.
He is survived by his loving
wife Gloria and children
Edel Aris, Victor Gary and
Rachelle Ann, father Hermogenes,
siblings and grandchildren.
His remains lie in state
at the Noveloso Residence
in Dagupan City.

Romulo M. Paragas

Peacefully joined his Creator
at the age of 48.
He is survived by his loving
wife Marieta and children
Cecilia, Ofelia, Clarissa
and Romulo, Jr., siblings
and grandchildren.
His remains lie in state at
the Loyola Memorial Chapels,
Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later by their respective families.

The Unilever Family requests the pious readers and friends to pray
for the eternal repose of their souls.

In Loving Memory
on the
SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY
of

SALUD S. TESORO

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow at the following churches:

Immaculate Conception Parish Church ...... 6:00 AM
Cubao, Quezon City

Sto. Rosario Parish Church .... 7:30 AM
Makinabang, Baliwag, Bulacan

Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish .... 8:00 AM
Ermita, Manila

Tesoro's Mausoleum .... 10:00 AM
Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City

Santuario de San Antonio Parish .... 12:15 PM
Forbes Park, Makati City

MESSAGE OF THANKS
On September 10, 2002

ARCH. HUMBERTO "DODO" H. HOLLERO

returned to his Creator and is now blessed with everlasting peace and happiness.
To **Imelda**, he was **Dear**.
To **Bobet, Rosette, Heidi, Mina, Herbert, Imee & Nani**, he was **Papa**.
To his grandchildren, he was **Lolo Dodo**.
To his sister and brothers, he was **Brod**.
To others, he was fondly called **Architect, Boss, Manong, Ka Dodo**, and **Pare**.
To all those whom he has "touched" during his mortal life, we say Thank You.
To all those who showed their last respects to him in different and meaningful ways—offering of Masses and prayers, sending flowers, messages of sympathy and keeping vigil at the Necrological Services, Novena Masses, and funeral rites, we say again Thank You.
Interment of his remains will be on his 40th day with our Lord at the Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary West Triangle, Quezon City.

ANTONIO (TONY) TUMACAY CALIMAG

Born: February 5, 1947
Peacefully joined his Creator on September 30, 2002.

His bereaved family: wife-nee: **Priscilla M. Nepomuceno**; mother-in-law: **Leonida Hubilla**; children/sons-in-law: **Tonette, Grace, Tonton, Osang, Maribeth-Oying Garcia, Paul-Ivy, Che-che, Lyn Kib Layco**; sisters/brothers/in-laws: **Dra. Lucy, Pety Eugenio/ Gabby, Capt. Jun/Lina, Dr. Rhino/Naty, Atty. Ric/Ting, Adelaida, Consuelo, Eraño & Ely, Manolo** and **Pinay, Manny & Linda, Lito & Dolor, Ofie, Aida** and **Pete**; relatives: **Adhor, Sefie/Tom**, uncles, aunties, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Park Viewing Chapel # 3 & 4, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 6, 2002, 3:00 P.M. at the Loyola Memorial Park Marikina City.

Protacio "Tacia" Serra Sabas

of Daet, Camarines Norte and Sta. Mesa, Manila

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 3, 2002 at the age of 82.

Her loving husband **Engr. Herculano A. Sabas**; children **Ching, Bonner, Drigo & Grace, Angel & Myrza, Edit, Alvin & Melia**; grandchildren **Jackie, Justin, Isaac, Tien-Tien, Ging-Ging, Amari, Biel, Tricia, Jeko & Mikee**; request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 8, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

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WILFREDO LICUANAN

Retiree of Medichem/
United Laboratories, Inc.

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on October 4, 2002 at the age of 68.

His body lies in state at the Arlington East Chapel, Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City. It will be transferred on Sunday in Pura, Tarlac. Interment will be announced later.

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Smart does not see 3G technology before 2006

PARIS—Philippine mobile telecoms operator Smart Communications said on Thursday it does not need third generation (3G) mobile technology for another four to five years.

Smart also said it wants to re-use its current second generation radio network, which could further hurt the $45 billion-a-year mobile equipment market which hopes rising 3G network sales will offset declining second generation (2G) equipment revenues.

"In around four to five years we would need 3G," Smart's president and chief executive Napoleon Nazareno told Reuters on the fringes of a third generation mobile telephony conference in Paris.

Smart claims to be the largest mobile operator in the Philippines with 7.5 million subscribers on its second generation GSM network, which is some 56 percent of all mobile phone users in the country.

Smart generates 40 percent of its revenues with data communications, mostly from text messaging. This is among the highest percentages in the world. Operators in Europe, Japan and South-Korea which all aim to increase their revenues from mobile data communications to offset declining voice revenues, typically generate between 10 and 20 percent of total revenues with data communications.

In one minute of network capacity Smart can generate more than 10 times the revenues with text messages than with voice calls, Nazareno said. The company is betting that new data services such as picture messaging between handsets will increase data revenues and Smart is also rolling out new data services such as mobile banking.

NAZARENO

Third generation mobile networks are designed for faster and more efficient mobile data traffic, alongside better quality voice communications.

Smart could benefit from third generation mobile technology to handle its data traffic, but Nazareno said he can offer the new services over his current 2G network, and the 3G equipment is too expensive and yet unproven.

Also, the third generation technology that is currently installed in Europe works in a new radio frequency range on top of the existing GSM networks, requiring an almost completely new network of radio base stations.

Instead he wants to use his current GSM radio network if he is ever going to make the switch to the W-CDMA version of 3G that is used by GSM operators.

"We're looking at trials from carriers in the US to run W-CDMA networks in the (existing) 1900 Megahertz (GSM) radio spectrum range. That offers a much better migration path for us," he said.

Nazareno's comments echo earlier comments from the second largest operator in the US, AT&T Wireless, which told Reuters here it does not see the need for a completely new third generation mobile network within the next four to five years.

Even then it will aim to re-use existing radio spectrum, and will test this option with Ericsson equipment in Dallas, Texas, in the coming year.

The news is another blow for mobile telecom equipment vendors like Ericsson, Nokia, Nortel, Siemens, Alcatel and Lucent, which are already struggling with declining sales because operators have cut back investments.

The radio part of a mobile network requires the majority of total investments in a new mobile phone network, with the minority of investments going into the switches that transport the wireless telecoms traffic onto the wireline network.

Operators in Europe have been crippled by a 100-million-euro investment in new radio frequency licenses for third generation telephony. They need to invest at least a similar sum to build the networks. Meanwhile, their daily operations in voice telephony suffer from intense price competition.

European mobile carriers are bound by national regulations to build these fast voice and data networks and have tried to cut costs by sharing networks with their rivals. US operators are doing the same, but they are now also postponing the launch dates further. *Reuters*

JG to proceed with mobile phone launch

JG SUMMIT Holdings said recently that it would launch a mobile phone service this year even though its bid to take over the Philippines' largest telco collapsed.

In a telephone interview with Reuters, president Lance Gokongwei—scion of the family that owns one of the largest conglomerates in the country—said the withdrawal from the deal to buy First Pacific Co Ltd's holdings in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co (PLDT) will have no impact on J.G. Summit's business.

"No impact," said Gokongwei, laughing at rumours of negative effects on the conglomerate swirling in the market.

"It (mobile venture) will be out before the end of the year. We're still moving ahead with our schedule." Digital Telecommunications Inc (Digitel), the fixed-line phone network unit of JG Summit, had postponed the launching of its cellular phone service twice, in December 2001 and in the second quarter of this year, due to infrastructure snags.

Some analysts have said the group had been hoping to use PLDT's mobile unit Smart Communications network as a platform for the rollout of Digitel's own cellular service.

Gokongwei said his company would always be open to business acquisitions but the next important deal was not yet in sight.

"We're always open to acquisitions. But there's nothing specific that we're eyeing at the moment," he said.

The sale of a controlling stake in PLDT fell apart on Wednesday after the group abandoned its plan to buy First Pacific's stakes in the telecom firm and Bonifacio Land Corp.

Bonifacio Land is the property unit of First Pacific subsidiary Metro Pacific Corp.

Digitel closed 2.17 percent or one centavo lower at 45 centavos, while JG Summit was unchanged at 1.36. Index heavyweight PLDT fell to an 11-year low on pressure from the failed bid as some investors felt the group headed by the Gokongwei clan would have brought superior management skills and greater cost discipline to the firm. *Reuters*

Asian flour millers find answers in cheaper blends

SINGAPORE—High prices paid for high-grade protein wheat amid dwindling supplies are eating into the margins of Asian flour millers, forcing them to resort to cheaper blends in order to survive, traders said on Thursday.

Chicago wheat futures rose to five-year highs last month, but Asian flour millers said it was difficult to pass on the entire rise in costs to end consumers.

They said the only way to protect margins was by cutting costs, possibly by using less expensive wheat from numerous new origins on offer and come out with cheaper blends.

"We will have to be creative," Ric Pinca, executive director of the Philippine Association of Flour Millers, told Reuters.

With the United States, Australia and Canada, traditional high-quality milling wheat suppliers, hit by the worst crop conditions in years, Asian buyers realize that deferring milling wheat deals due to high prices may not be the best thing to do.

"Today, flour millers are willing to pay a much higher price, but that also cannot 100 percent guarantee them adequate supplies of top grade wheats on a sustained basis," said a leading Singapore-based grains trader.

The precarious state of supplies has left Asian buyers looking for milling wheat cargoes from countries such as France and Kazakhstan for the first time in many years.

From France, Sri Lanka has already bought at least three cargoes, Indonesia has bought some and the Philippines is negotiating deals for French soft wheat, trade officials said.

"Even after taking the logistics into account, French milling wheat is quite competitive for Asia this year," said Vijay Iyengar, managing director of Agrocorp International Pte Ltd, a Singapore-based grains trading firm. *Reuters*

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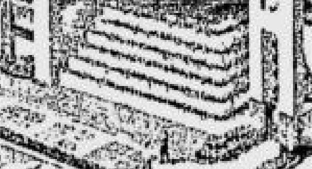
The magnificent Porte Cochere fountain

Resort-type outdoor pool



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Millions of Filipino kids either malnourished or obese

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

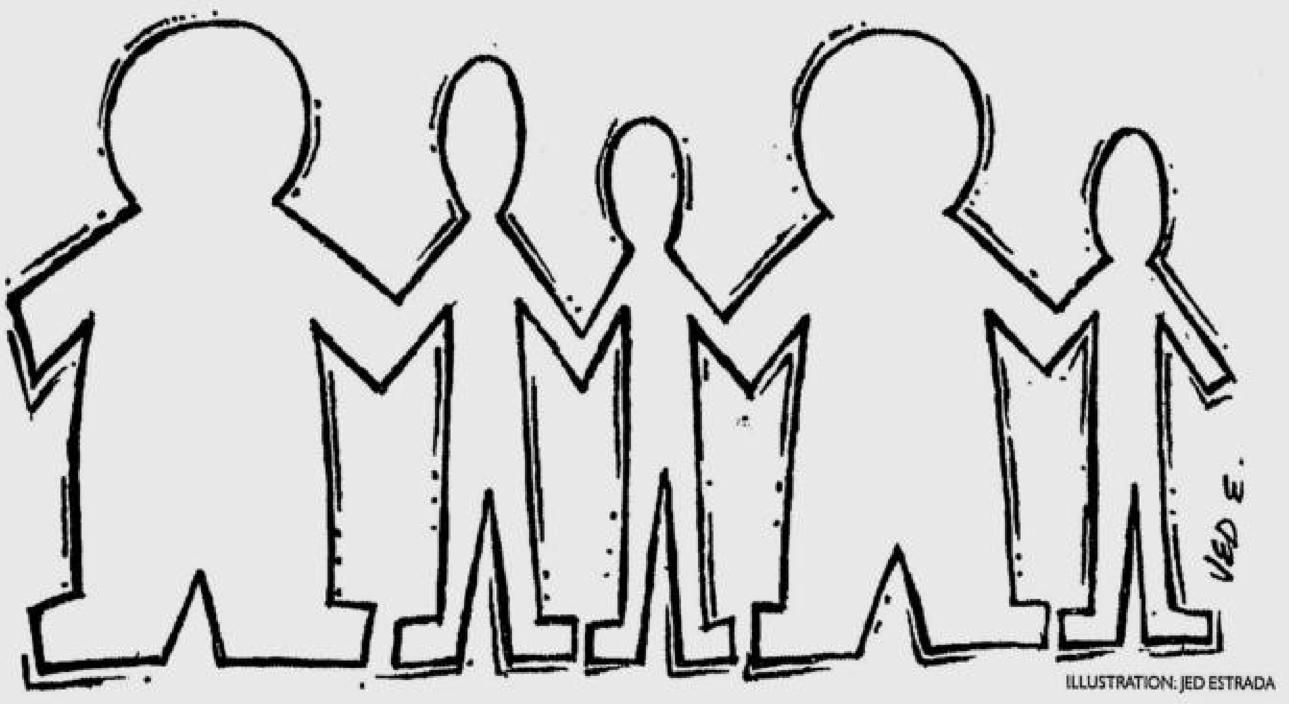

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

MEDICAL FILES

OUR country has always presented a glaring picture of contrasts. It's no surprise that we get research data showing that while millions of Filipino children are underweight and stunted in their growth, several other millions are overweight and even grossly obese.

If we believe that we are what we eat and our diet is a major factor which determines what or how our health will be in the future, then we should be more concerned about the dietary habits of our children.

The passive and misguided attitude of letting our children enjoy whatever they want to eat ("because they're still children anyway") has no place in a health-conscious society with responsible parents. It will probably come as a surprise to many that obesity or pathological overweight is becoming an epidemic in some parts of the Philippines.

Prof. Ramon Abarquez Jr., a trustee of the Philippine Association for the Study of Obesity and Overweight (Pasoo), quotes data from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) which indicate that 25 percent of children in private schools between the ages of 8 and 10 were found to be overweight.

These figures are expected to increase in the coming years.

Obese children are likely to become obese adults. It's no wonder that in another survey by Pasoo, it was noted that 21 percent of Filipinos who underwent medical consultation were found to be excessively fat, and obesity rates in Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao were found to be 19 percent, 34 percent, 22 percent and 8 percent, respectively.

Growing health problem

These statistics clearly indicate that obesity is a growing health problem that has to be properly addressed.

Dr. Abarquez explains that overweight and obesity are important issues not only because of esthetic reasons, but also because of the resulting increase in deaths due to diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure, heart disease, osteoarthritis and even cancers of the colon, gallbladder, uterus and breast. Latest findings also indicate that in over half of obese patients, fat globules are deposited in the heart and this can lead to heart failure. Even obstructive sleep apnea that can lead to *bangungot*, or sudden death during sleep, is becoming more common.

What factors could possibly cause obesity in a Third World country like the Philippines?

"Rather than simply blaming heredity or fallacies like eating cold rice and drinking water during meals, one should focus on the true culprits, which include the modern sedentary lifestyle and the modern refined, high-fat, low-fiber diet. It's alarming that these culprits strike at a very early age," warns Dr. Abarquez.

It must be a pediatrician's nightmare to note preschoolers and elementary schoolchildren who constantly crave for fast foods, guzzle soft drinks and pass their leisure time playing video games and watching TV.

The Pasoo has been waging a difficult battle against the bulge. It's an association of physicians, scientists and health care professionals organized in 1994 under the highly respected endocrinologist Dr. Augusto Litonjua. Since then, the Pasoo has been tirelessly crusading against obesity and overweight. Its activities include research, medical and lay education, formulation of guidelines and strategies adapted to local conditions, as well as actual diagnosis and treatment of obesity and its associated medical conditions and complications.

Malnutrition problem

Although obesity is a prevalent condition in our private schools, you'll see an entirely different picture when you take a look at the other side. Lilibeth Padilla of the DOST sent me a report stating that the country's nutrition situation among preschoolchildren showed the continuing persistence of malnutrition.

A nationwide nutrition survey conducted last year by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) showed that three in 10 children aged 0 to 5 years are underweight. A slight proportion of them are stunted, while wasting afflicts 6 percent of the pre-school population. Translated into absolute numbers, an estimated 3.7 million preschoolchildren are underweight, 3.8 million are stunted and 0.7 million are wasted.

The survey measured the height and weight of children and compared them with the National Center for Health Statistics' international reference standard. Indices used in assessing the child's nutritional status were weight-for-age and weight-for-height. Underweight indicated acute or present malnutrition while stunting meant either past growth failure although the child is no longer malnourished or malnutrition of long standing. Wasting indicated actual weight loss or recent evaluation of malnutrition.

Survey findings further revealed that among the different age groups, the prevalence of underweight at 11.9 percent is lowest among infants and toddlers aged less than 1 year. However, the percentage of underweight increased three-fold, reaching 35 percent among the 1- and 2-year-old children, then slightly decreasing at each year level.

For wasting, a similar picture of low prevalence at 0 to 11 months followed by high prevalence at the next year level was also noted.

The prevalence of stunting at 7.9 percent among the 0- to 11-month-old children is within a manageable level, but the condition progressively worsened at each year level, reaching 40 percent at the 5-year-old age group.

Monitoring growth

Mothers, especially those in the lower economic brackets, should know the importance of growth monitoring and should be encouraged to know the height and weight of their children as well as their nutritional status. They can do this by visiting the health centers in their area. Monitoring will serve as a warning once the child's height stops increasing and his weight starts falling. The health centers can also teach them about highly nutritious and inexpensive foods.

The government should also intensify its breastfeeding program. It may be a good idea to offer some incentives for mothers who continue to breastfeed their babies for extended periods.

Many experts have attributed the abrupt increase in underweight and wasting prevalence to the decline in breastfeeding, improper weaning practices and unhygienic handling of complementary foods.

When the surviving underweight children are not given appropriate care, they will likely be stunted and their total development affected.

Between a pathologically obese and malnourished child, who's better off? Actually, neither. If their nutrition problem is not properly addressed, both will have a gloomy future.

Poor diet, diseases

The FNRI report explains that poor diet and infectious diseases interact to cause growth failure in children. The immune system of these malnourished children are generally depressed, making them prone to infections.

Aside from this, their physical retardation may be compounded by mental stunting.

Most unfortunately, when they become teeners, they may also have a predilection to get into drugs, especially rugby, "so they don't feel their hunger pangs," says a social worker. Poverty, malnutrition and drug addiction are known to be bedmates.

Obviously, there's no quick fix to this obesity-malnutrition problem. It would have been ideal if parents with obese children cut the food budget for their children and give the money to the poor instead. They would be treating their children's obesity and alleviating the poor children's malnutrition. This would have been the win-win solution. Unfortunately, this does not happen in the real world.

Educating the public on both obesity and malnutrition, hopefully, will raise the people's consciousness to a level wherein parents and guardians will make a conscious effort to ensure that their children are taking healthy and the right amount of food.

Farewell French fries?

DISCOVER

Massie K. Santos

FRENCH fries haven't been too popular with the health community lately, although you'd never guess that judging from the sales figures.

First was the news that fries contained too much fat, which prompted a certain fast-food chain to announce they were going for low-fat fries.

Now comes the news that French fries cause cancer. To be fair though, fries aren't the only ones being tagged as containing carcinogens. Potato chips, roasted asparagus, banana chips, breakfast cereals, cookies and popcorn are on the list, too. And they all contain the same carcinogen—acrylamide.

Way back in April, the Swedish National Food Administration released a study showing that foods which had been fried, deep-fried or oven-baked at temperatures exceeding 120 degrees Celsius contained high levels of acrylamide. (Not that the acrylamide wasn't there in the raw food stage, but it somehow appeared during the cooking process.) This, of course, threw the scientific community in an uproar.

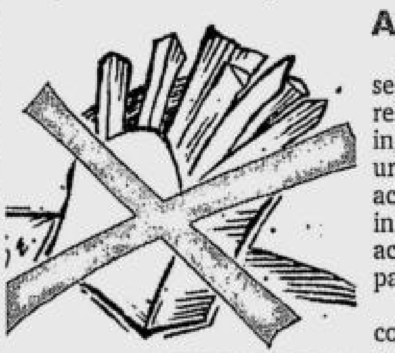

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Acrylamide is found in gels for DNA testing or Western blots and even in water (in very low amounts) to help purify it. It does not exist naturally in food. But by June, when researchers in several other countries had confirmed these results, the World Health Organization (WHO) called an emergency meeting to discuss the effects of acrylamide on humans.

Tolerable levels

Here's what all the fuss is about (and may the mathematicians be kind): by WHO standards, an 8-ounce glass of water is allowed to have about 0.12μg (that stands for microgram) of acrylamide in it, or 0.5μg of acrylamide per liter of water. A microgram may be thought of as 0.000001 gram, if that's any help.

According to data released by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, however, a large order of fries from the more popular fast-food chains contains anywhere from 39 to 82 μg of acrylamide per order. That's at least 39 times more acrylamide than you'd find in eight glasses of water. And that's not good if you eat French fries every day.

Potato chips have five to 25 μg of acrylamide per ounce and no one eats just one ounce of chips at a time. Even cereals have acrylamide: an 11-ounce box of cereal would have at least 66 μg of acrylamide but most people don't eat a whole box of cereal in a single day.

Given all these figures, should people simply stop eating anything fried, deep fried or baked?

The medical community isn't ready to say yes, but it does encourage people to eat a lot more fruits and vegetables and cut down on foods that aren't really healthy like, say, fries and chips. I guess that's why they're called junk food.

Amino acid

A few days ago, researchers in Canada released a study saying that they had figured out what made acrylamide show up in foods—an amino acid called asparagine.

Their data were confirmed by researchers working separately in Switzerland and England. The higher the amount of asparagine present in a potato, for example, the higher the levels of acrylamide would appear in the French fries or potato chips made out of it.

This information is heartening. If companies knew which foods contain high levels of asparagine, they could use alternatives with lower levels of the amino acid.

But is acrylamide really carcinogenic?

Well, that's the tricky part. Regular dosages of 40 μg of acrylamide have caused several types of cancers in lab rats and mice and have affected their nervous systems. But (and you knew this was coming) 40 μg of acrylamide are considered nontoxic to human beings because they're much bigger than mice.

No one has figured out just how much acrylamide one has to accumulate in his system to be at risk for cancer. And just because lab animals react in certain ways to various chemicals, this does not mean human beings will have similar reactions.

Just to be on the safe side though, perhaps people should be visiting their favorite fast-food stores on a weekly rather than a on daily basis, and rediscovering the comfort foods *tinola, sinigang* and *arroz caldo*.

Solution to Odysseus puzzle

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

MANY readers sent their solutions to the Odysseus puzzle two Saturdays ago (Sept. 21, 2002). I would like to thank my colleague Dr. Noel Cabral for going over these answers. (Dr. Cabral was the one who posed the puzzle.) The best explanation came from Gerard Gumban (bod_ph@yahoo.com):

The response of the Cyclops was a growl which meant no. Had it meant yes, Odysseus would have attacked the Cyclops, not the Gorgon.

Let us look at this in detail: When the Cyclops first said no to Odysseus' question "Is this the door to freedom?" there were two possibilities—one, the Cyclops was telling the truth, or two, he was lying. Recall that one of the guardians would always tell the truth and the other would lie.

So when Odysseus asked the next question "If I were to ask the Gorgon whether her door leads to freedom, would she say so?" This question was indeed meant to figure out who was lying (or not). If the Cyclops were lying, then his response would have meant that the Gorgon would say "Yes, this is the door that leads to freedom." If the Cyclops were telling the truth, then his response would have meant that "No, she would say that this is not the door to freedom."

A reply of "No" would mean that the first statement of the Cyclops was true—hence, he was the one telling the truth and the Gorgon the one lying. A reply of "Yes" would mean that the first statement of the Cyclops was false.

With the growl as an answer of "No," if the Cyclops were the one telling lies, it could not have been so because his first statement would have been true. So he must have been telling the truth.

I promised to give a copy of my latest book "How Dead is the Moon? and Other Cosmic Questions" (Anvil Publishing, 2002) to the first five readers who furnished the correct solutions. In order of receipt of solutions, the other four are Lyn Dimaano [brains@info.com.ph], Ronnie Pineda [Ronaldo_Pineda@NAI.com], Belen M. Casas [bamc@edsamail.com.ph], Felice Lantican [rfl@edsamail.com.ph].

However, five other readers also gave correct answers (although their answers came several hours or days later): Beng Chong Cua [bengcua@info.com.ph], Jeffrey Ang [jang@cyberjresources.com], Kim Gargar [kim@nip.upd.edu.ph], Beethoven Cheng [lvbcheng@yahoo.com] and Ronald S. Tumulak [ronald.tumulak@pstc-edu.net]. To encourage Filipinos to solve puzzles, I will also be sending a book to these readers.

I would also like to acknowledge some readers who gave partially correct explanations (although there were some flaws in their logic or their solutions were incomplete). They include Joseph G., Ayen Sison [ayen@i-manila. com.ph], Andrew Michael O. Tiu [andrew_tiu@edsamail.com.ph], Veegee [veegee1@edsamail.com.ph], Trix Cajita [trx_c@dellmail.com], Joey [639173003271.gsm@sms.globe.com.ph], Wilfredo Calinawan [willyc@pinoymail.com], Jelaine Landicho [wafflesnshakes@yahoo.com], Delfina So [finauk_england@yahoo.co.uk], Oliver Marasigan [oliver_m23@hotmail.com], Lex [lex_taliones@yahoo.com], James [jcdvo@skyinet.net], Emelie Eyadan [eleyadan@my. smart.com.ph], Edgar R. Tan. Jr. [edgartan@utsp.nec.co.jp]. These readers will receive my book "In the Beginning and Other Scientific Journeys" (Bookmark, 1993).

To the winners listed above, please e-mail me your mailing address and contact number so I can send your prizes. Congratulations to everyone, and watch out for my next puzzles in November (in Mind Games) and in December (in Eureka!).

Study highlights efficacy, safety of Celecoxib

NEW research published recently in the British Medical Journal showed the efficacy, tolerability and upper gastrointestinal (GI) safety profile of Celecoxib—a COX-2 selective inhibitor—compared to traditional nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDS).

A systematic review of published and unpublished data from 15,172 patients concluded that Celecoxib is as effective as other NSAIDs for relief symptoms of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, which has significantly improved gastrointestinal safety and tolerability.

The review led by Dr Jonathan Deeks at the Institute of Health Sciences, Oxford, compared at least 12 weeks of Celecoxib treatment with traditional NSAIDs (diclofenac, ibuprofen or naproxen) or placebo.

Compared with patients taking NSAIDs, the incidence of ulcers detected by endoscopy was 71 percent lower in patients taking Celecoxib.

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4 ways to avoid the flu

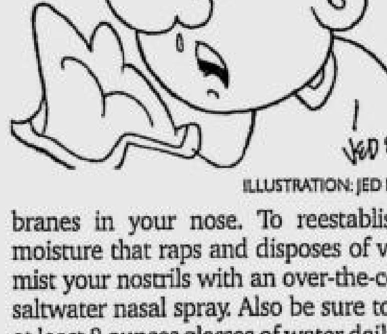

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

MILLIONS of people will get the flu this season. Here's how to avoid being one of them. A flu shot is often not your best defense. With a long list of potential side effects, ranging from fever and headache to the nerve disorder Guillain-Barré syndrome, shots are suited for people at high risk for flu complications (those with heart disease, asthma, diabetes, or suppressed immune systems). If you are not at high risk, try these gentler flu-fighting strategies instead:

- **Get strong.** A healthy body and rested mind are your first defense, says Frances Slater, president of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, an infection-prevention group in Washington, D.C. Reduce your stress, get eight hours of sleep and exercise regularly.
- **Wash up.** Because the flu virus spreads principally by hand contact, you should scrub your hands vigorously with hot water for 15 seconds (including the backs of your hands and between your fingers) after visiting public places, recommends Slater.
- **Keep hydrated.** Enclosed areas like offices have notoriously low humidity, which dries the protective mucous membranes in your nose. To reestablish the moisture that raps and disposes of viruses, mist your nostrils with an over-the-counter saltwater nasal spray. Also be sure to drink at least 8 ounces glasses of water daily.
- **Fortify yourself.** Elderberry *(Sambucus canadensis)* has protein that prevent viruses from entering cells; take 1 teaspoon to 1 tablespoon of the extract twice a day throughout the rainy season. Extra dosage of vitamin C and the homeopathic remedy Osillococcinum can stop the illness in its early stages (follow package directions).

Source: Healthy Options News Digest

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang ● Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

New cardiac procedures now in RP

By Charles E. Buban

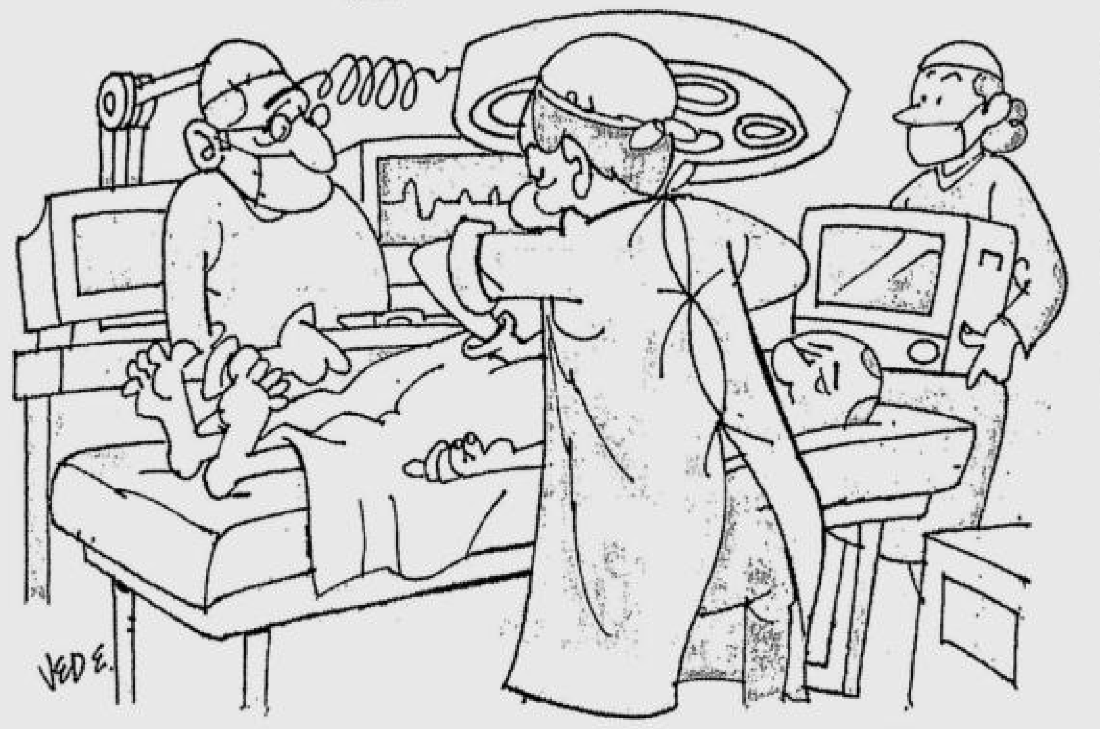

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

GOOD news for Filipinos with serious heart ailments. A top Filipino heart surgeon based in the US announced last week the availability in the country of four advanced and better procedures in heart surgery, thus sparing patients the need to go abroad for treatment.

Dr. Jorge Garcia, a senior cardiovascular surgeon at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. and founding chair of Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, said these new surgical techniques reduce the invasiveness of a heart operation and significantly hasten the patient's recuperation.

"I'm very glad to have it brought here since few countries and only a number of hospitals in the US have the capability of performing these procedures," Garcia revealed. "This only shows how far we are advancing in treating acute cases of heart disease."

Garcia revealed that the AHMC can now perform the following:

- The Maze procedure using microwave technology to treat chronic atrial fibrillation
- The left ventricular remodeling of the heart to treat heart enlargement and lessen the need for a heart transplant
- Endoscopic vein-harvesting technique that avoids the traditional big incision procedure
- The left ventricular assist device that is used to help a patient's weakened heart function normally while awaiting a heart transplant

Fixing heart rhythm

The Maze procedure, whether the traditional or the latest method, is designed to correct an abnormality of the rhythm of the heart.

Many patients describe the irregular, often rapid pulsations of the heart during arterial fibrillation (AF) as an uncomfortable flopping sensation inside the chest, with a sudden and keen awareness of every heartbeat. This may be accompanied by shortness of breath, profuse sweating, chest pain, dizziness, passing out, exercise intolerance and extreme fatigue.

Before the introduction of the Maze procedure, a patient was required to undergo a corrective valve operation, but the heart will no longer work as efficiently as before and patients may still experience atrial fibrillation, said Garcia.

Under the older Maze procedure, the surgeon creates a "maze" of incisions in the heart to block electrical activity.

"But the procedure is difficult and takes a long time to perform. The patient is also required to be on a heart-lung machine for several hours, thus decreasing the number of patients who could qualify for this surgery," explained Garcia.

The latest variation of the Maze procedure employs no incision and instead uses microwave technology to burn certain areas of the heart. It is a much safer procedure that is easier to perform.

Dilating the heart

When the heart muscle weakens, usually after a heart attack, it starts dilating (the heart cavities get bigger). With increasing muscle tension inside the heart chamber, the heart's pumping efficiency decreases. To correct this, the heart must be returned to its normal size and shape and the bad portions eliminated.

One of the latest procedures that could correct this condition is the left ventricular remodeling of the heart (LVRH).

"Before, the only recommended procedure is a heart transplant but thanks to LVRH, we can spare our patients from undergoing a transplant. This method is very popular in the US and I have been doing this type of operation for the last five years," said Garcia.

A heart transplant is very expensive and there are complications involved. Since the patient must take medications that suppress the immune system, severe infections could easily occur, some of which could be fatal.

"With this new operation, the cost is much less and the need to maintain medication is eliminated," Garcia said.

Small incisions

Until recently, the traditional, or "open," technique was used to harvest a segment of the greater saphenous vein for a coronary artery bypass. This technique utilized a single, long incision that often stretched from a patient's ankle up to his groin.

Said Garcia: "These incisions caused a fair amount of discomfort and sometimes limited mobility during early recovery. Most of the time, patients reported more discomfort from their leg incision than from their chest wound. In addition, the overall size and location of the incision contributed to its tendency to become infected fairly frequently."

In an effort to decrease infection and minimize patient discomfort, endoscopic vein harvesting (EVH) procedure was developed in the US. The EVH replaces the single, long incision with two or three small incisions evenly spaced along the inner upper and lower leg.

Besides esthetics, the EVH has been shown to have several distinct advantages over the open technique. The number of leg wound complications, including infection, was significantly less and patients began walking sooner and recovered from surgery more quickly.

Awaiting transplant

People awaiting a heart transplant often must wait a long time before a suitable donor heart becomes available. While waiting, the patient's already weakened heart may deteriorate and would be unable to pump enough blood to sustain life.

A mechanical pump-type device called the left ventricular assist device (LVAD) can now be attached to the patient to help maintain the heart's pumping ability.

"With this device—sometimes called a 'bridge to transplant'—a patient's weak heart can 'buy some time' until it can be replaced," explained Garcia.

But an LVAD is good only for four weeks. For people who need an LVAD for a much longer period, Garcia said there are now portable LVADs that can be used for weeks to months.

"Patients with battery operated-LVADs can be discharged from the hospital and have an acceptable quality of life while waiting for a donor heart to become available," he said.

The only downside to this portable device is the cost of maintaining one: a permanent LVAD costs $270,000 to $300,000.

"Although we haven't done this particular procedure yet, I can always bring my team in the US to perform it here," Garcia assured. "We can successfully perform the operation because we have the facilities in the AHMC."

YES... HAIR LOSS CAN BE TREATED!

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Hair loss can be alarming, especially when it happens suddenly. Excessive hair loss has many causes. It can result from childbirth, high fever, severe infection, major surgery, chronic illness, thyroid disease and fungus infection of the scalp. Inadequate protein in the diet, some medications, cancer treatments, birth control pills, low serum iron, improper hair care and improper use of hair cosmetics and hereditary thinning are other causes. All these may result in some form of baldness (alopecia).

The most common type of hair loss affecting men is called male pattern baldness. The development of this condition depends on a genetic predisposition (heredity), male hormones (androgen) and age. The hair loss usually begins on the sides (temples) or on the top of the head (crown). Some men lose only some hair and develop a bald spot on the crown or a receding hairline. Others, especially those who experience hair loss at a young age, may go completely bald.

In women, hormonal imbalance is one of the key factors that can lead to hair loss. An oval area of thinning is seen over the top of the scalp which may progress from mild to moderate to severe thinning.

If you shed a lot of hair when you comb or brush your hair or if your hair becomes thinner or falls out, consult a dermatologist. Expect questions about diet, medications including vitamins, family history of hair loss, recent illness, and hair care methods. After careful examination of your hair and scalp, your dermatologist may study a few hairs under the microscope or perform some more laboratory tests. This may include a biopsy or sample of the scalp. Remember, the diagnosis and treatment of baldness is best left to the authority - your dermatologist.

A health information service from

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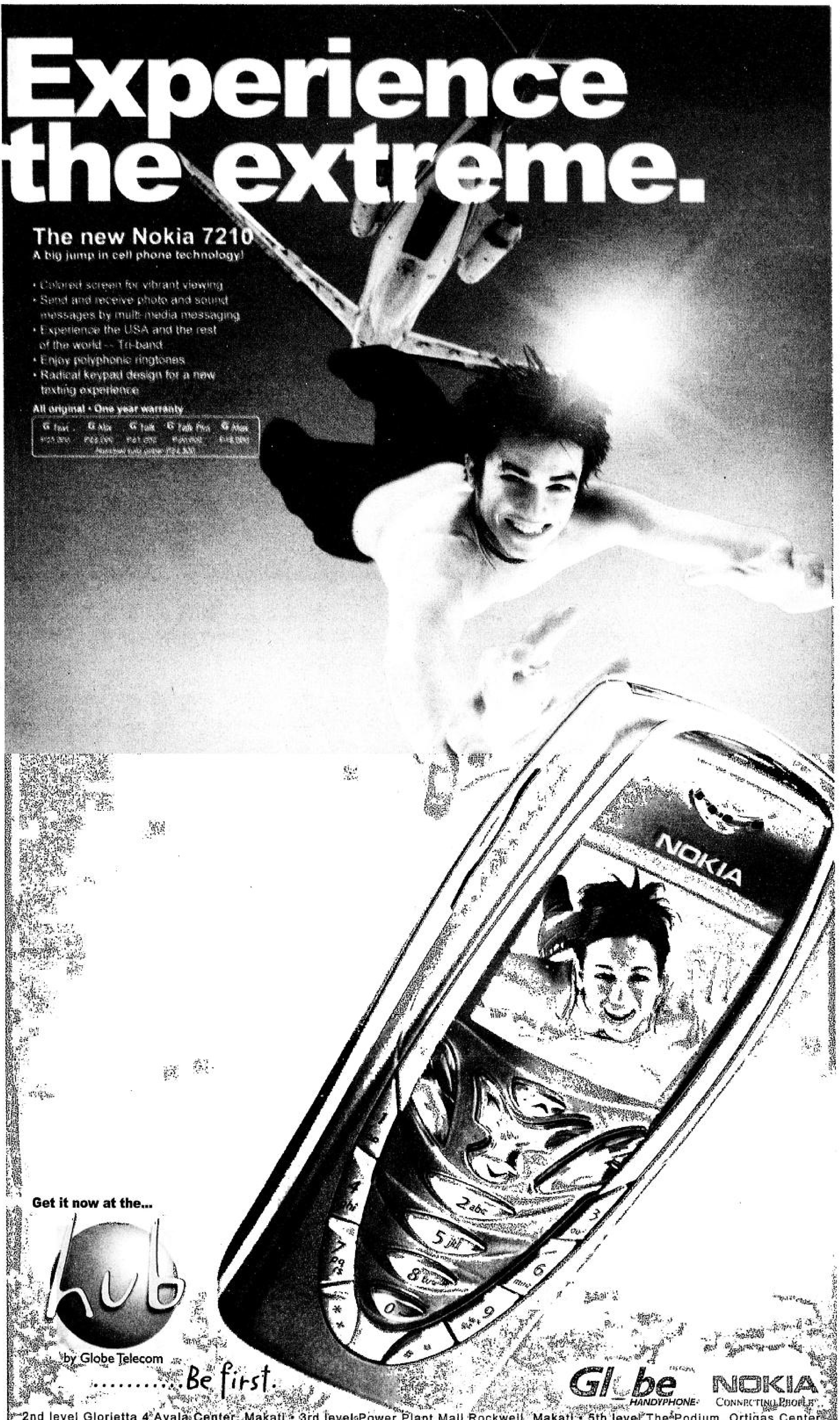
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RP not affected by US port strike–DTI

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TRADE and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II is not worried over a prolonged labor strike in the US West Coast ports which has already paralyzed this gateway of Asian trade to the American market.

Roxas said that the strike has so far had no impact on the country's exports and he does not expect any kink unless the lockout lasts for more than a month.

"Most of our exports are in electronics and all of these are airlifted. As far as I know, air cargo has not been affected by the West Coast strike," he said.

Roxas felt there was no need to push the panic button yet as he assured that the DTI would prepare a contingency plan as soon as the situation warranted it.

As of July this year, Philippine exports to the United States grew by 5.1 percent, the fourth best in the region behind China (24.9 percent); Malaysia (17.3 percent); and Thailand (9.2 percent).

International Container Terminal Services Inc. chair Enrique K. Razon urged the Department of Trade and Industry to prepare a contingency plan for West Coast-bound exports that could pile up in container yards if the port crisis spills over for more than a week.

Without a contingency plan, Razon said exports could ground to a halt at an inoppurtune time considering the coming, traditional surge in shipments during the Christmas holiday.

The US West Coast strike, triggered by workers' demand for higher compensation and resistance to technology changes, went on its sixth day yesterday with still no clear resolution in sight.

Analysts have warned that a prolonged shutdown of the 29 US West Coast ports could send East Asia (which ships out $1 billion worth of goods a day through this gateway) into a recession.

Asian markets shrug off war fears

SINGAPORE—Asian shares shrugged off concerns about a war in Iraq and losses on Wall Street to edge higher on Friday, led by Japan's NTT DoCoMo, the country's largest mobile phone operator.

Investors were looking ahead to September payrolls data to be released by the US government on Friday, with some bond traders betting on a decline in employment so big as to provoke a Federal Reserve interest rate cut.

Major currencies were trading narrowly ahead of the US jobs data, but the euro recovered from early lows versus the yen.

"If employment data is weak, that could generate fresh downward pressure on US and possibly on the dollar," said Junya Tanase, global markets officer at J.P. Morgan Chase in Tokyo.

Traders were also keeping a wary eye on a shutdown of ports on the US west coast, which could deal a blow to Asia's export-oriented economies.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei average was struggling to get above 9,000, having closed below that level for the first time in 19 years, over renewed concern about weak banks and the viability of some of their biggest borrowers.

NTT DoCoMo, the market's second biggest stock, put on more than 10 percent and helped the Nikkei rise 0.38 percent to 8,970.17 at 0310 GMT after Morgan Stanley upgraded it.

South Korean shares rebounded from a soggy opening, with the market worried about rising household debt and chipmakers after another poor outlook from the US semiconductor industry.

But the market was getting a lift from the telecom sector, with NTT providing a psychological boost. The KOSPI index rose 0.35 percent.

Singapore shares edged up in early trade, underpinned by bargain hunting in bank stocks. The Straits Times Index was up 1.34 percent, the biggest gain in Asia.

Hong Kong stocks opened higher, despite worries about property developer Henderson Land Development, after it announced a 51-percent slide in net profit on Thursday. But the Hang Seng Index was trading flat at 0310 GMT.

Australian shares were a tad weaker, dented by a soft start in the banking sector, after Wall Street closed lower.

US stocks closed lower at the end of a seesaw session on Thursday, as discouraging profit outlooks outweighed a report of surprising strength in the huge services sector.

The blue-chip Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped more than 2 percent on Thursday morning after a report showed the US services sector grew in September at its fastest pace since July.

But sour outlooks from chipmaker Advanced Micro Devices Inc and Bank of New York Co. Inc and fears of war with Iraq sent the indexes wobbling below sea level.

"Earnings in general have been terrible and that has put a lid on this market," said Burton Schlichter, senior market analyst with Lind-Waldock.

Reuters

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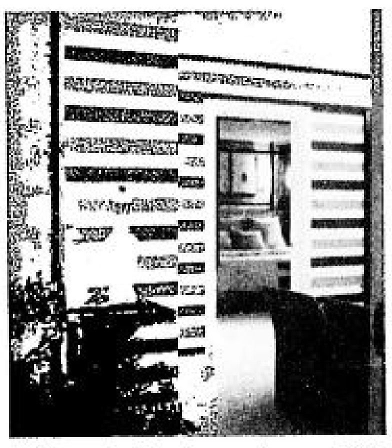
What's Inside

Philippine pearls: a matter of pride C2

Sari-Sari Store in New York C6



Yipes! Stripes! C8

Reclaiming myself

By Liz Hodgkinson

IN A world that's saturated with sex and where ever more magazines, journals and books seem devoted to exploring the joys and wonders of sexual intimacy, why would anyone choose to be celibate? Even Catholic priests, after centuries of celibacy, are now increasingly clamoring for the right to express the sexual side of their natures.

Celibacy is popularly seen as unnatural, life-denying, repressive, cold-hearted. Sex, by contrast, is viewed as warm, loving, giving—the expression of a *naturally* passionate and sensual nature. Nowadays, those who cannot seem to enjoy sex or find fulfillment in it are considered dysfunctional, even in need of therapy to put them back in working order.

Given this bleak picture, it seems nobody in his right mind would voluntarily choose sexual abstention. And yet, the truth is, celibacy can be a way of life, liberating and empowering. The best way I can approach the subject is to tell my own story.

Sexual lib in the '60s

I came to sexual maturing in the 1960s, when permissive society was new, and when the pervasive thinking was that everyone—not just aristocrats or bohemians—could partake fully in a variety of sexual experience. For the first time, sex could be regarded apart from reproduction!

There was no longer any reason to confine sex to marriage, or limit one to a single partner for life. We in the '60s fondly imagined that, through physical sex, we could become far more loving, passionate and intimate than our parents' generation could have even hoped to be.

At first, this all seemed wonderfully liberating. Women, particularly, would at last be able to cast away centuries-old repressions. Explicit how-to sex manuals appeared on the scene. We could now all have a good time.

The only problem was, we didn't have such a good time. Given to understand that sex was the way to immense joy and lasting union, we at first couldn't understand why it didn't work out that way. Why, instead of being gloriously happy and fulfilled, were so many of us miserable and depressed?

As time went on, some of us began to realize that sex was promising more, much more, than it was ever going to deliver. It clearly wasn't leading to wonderful, ecstatic relationships or to a breaking down of barriers between the sexes. It wasn't making people more loving, more intimate, more gloriously connected. Following the sexual revolution, there were more divorces and relationship breakdowns.

We looked forward to satisfaction from sexual encounters. Otherwise, there was little point.

Chill out

It came quite as a shock to me to learn that, really, sexual desire could never be satisfied. It was, in fact, like any other addiction. The more "sexual satisfaction" you found, the more of it you wanted.

My husband and I gave sex a rest, just to see what would happen. The results were astonishing and entirely positive. We came to see sex as binding, rather than freeing. It is not an exaggeration to say that our relationship improved beyond all recognition once sex was out of our agenda. We no longer expected sex to do what it patently could not—bring us together in a lasting, loving and joyful union.

Eventually, we became like brother and sister, or two friends sharing a house. Our respect for each other has increased, now that we were no longer looking to the other for some kind of transcendental experience.

I found that freedom from somebody else's sexual demands—and the freedom from making sexual demands on another person—gave me the energy to pursue other, ultimately rewarding interests. I also became cooler, calmer and, I think, more intelligent, as my mind seemed to clear.

During those years of celibacy, I found the strength to write and publish 21 books. I established myself as a wholly autonomous independent human being, and cultivated a wide range of friendships in varying intensities. There is also the factor that if a person is not relating to another in this intimate and exclusive way, he will be able to deal better with bigger issues. The main reason for the imposition of celibacy among some religious orders is that it frees a person from desires of the body and pulls him/her in the direction and contemplation of eternal truths.

> I gave celibacy a try for a full decade, and discovered aspects of my personality that I would never have found with a sexual partner

Benefits

Now, having been celibate by choice for more than a decade, I can cite the advantages that I have personally earned. Foremost is that I have been able to reclaim myself, sort out my identity as distinct from anybody else's.

For a woman, this is particularly important, because women lose their identity in ways that don't even threaten men. She usually loses her name in marriage, and all her children proceed to bear their father's name.

Women can also easily lose themselves in the roles of wife and mother, whereas a prolonged period of celibacy has helped me bring together my masculine and feminine sides. Freed from the sexual element, I have been able to explore important aspects of both my female and male friends.

Needless to say, I have been mercifully freed from the fear of pregnancy, the dangers of contraception and sexually related diseases, and the fear that a partner might leave me to go off with someone else.

Had I had not given celibacy a try, I fear I would never have been able to reclaim myself to the extent I have. In order to create, to realize our potential, we all need solitude, time and space for ourselves. When entangled in an intense sexual relationship, these three would be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain.

A sexual partner will always feel free to encroach, to take up your time. Why? Because sexual partners always feel they have claims on you, that they own you to some extent. Sexual activity brings with it anger, jealousy, and attachment.

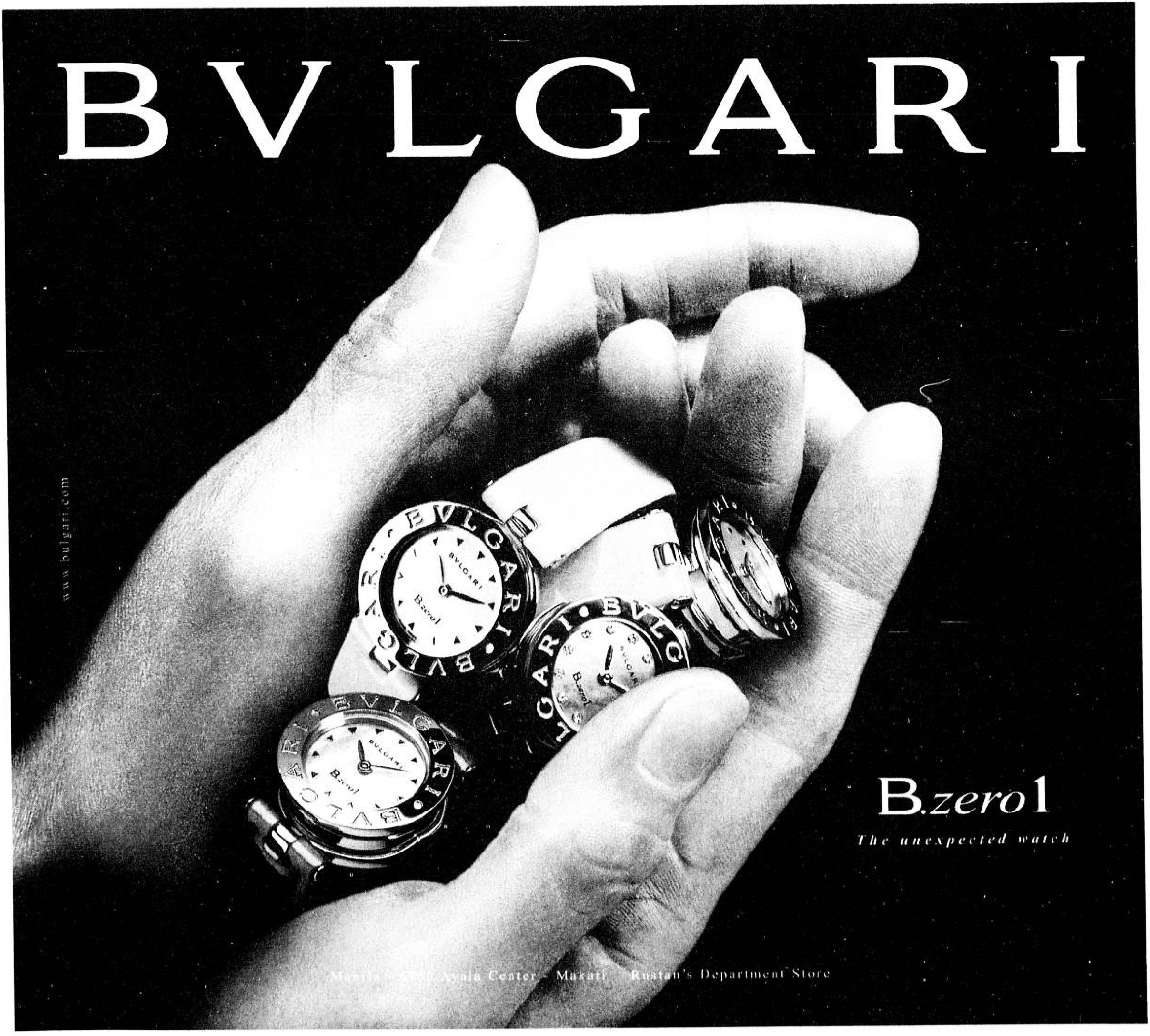
An alternative

My own feeling is that celibacy should be presented to people as a choice that is just as valid as sexual activity. It is unrealistic to expect that everybody will henceforth become celibate. The sex drive is too powerful, and sex too immediately gratifying.

But at least it is arguable that extreme focus on sex has not brought extra happiness to society in general. Rather, it has brought misery. We endure the sad spectacle of teenage pregnancies—children giving birth to children. We witness the anguish and sorrow caused by extramarital affairs. Divorce and abortion rates have sky-rocketed.

There are diseases we cannot even begin to comprehend, much less cure. There are widespread plagues of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and pornography. Women's—and now, men's—bodies are exploited for titillation in a vast number of magazines and videos.

I can't say what will happen in the future. I haven't taken a vow of celibacy and it's possible I may embark on another intimate relationship. I don't know. But whatever the future might bring, I will never regret my more than a decade of freedom from sex.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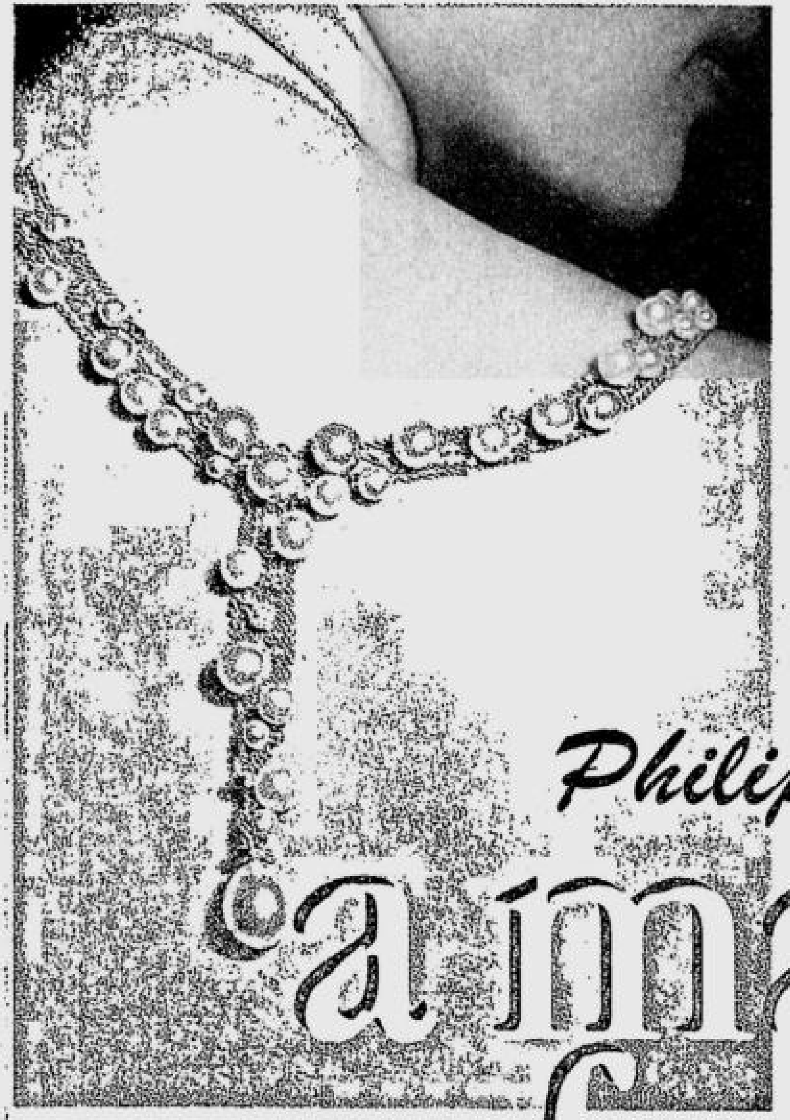
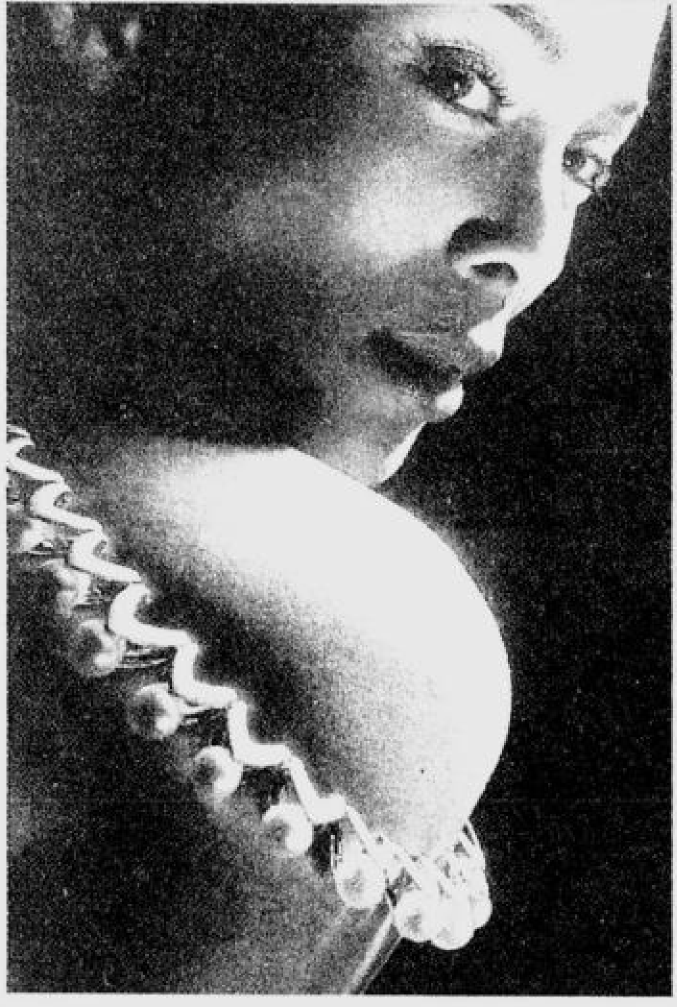
Philippine pearls: a matter of pride



FUSION. White and golden South Sea pearls set in white gold

LE CHIC! Drop pearl earrings and choker also in white gold



NIGHT AND DAY. This necklace with South Sea pearls can be worn in two ways—one with the matte finish side set in white gold, the other with the glossy finish.

TRENDY. Wear South Sea pearls with silk cords that go with daytime apparel.

GEOMETRIC. Bold South Sea pearl rings, made for the Western market, in geometric golden settings, and accentuated by pave diamonds.

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Raymond Lauchengco
Pictorial direction and page design
by Antonio Salac Santos

EVERY year Jewelmer International Corporation, growers of South Sea pearls, produces a grand show at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center. The audience, mostly participants of the annual Hong Kong Watch and Jewelry Trade Fair, may not be the ideal target.

"Marketing-wise, we can take on a different strategy," says Manuel Cojuangco, Jewelmer president. "The people who watch the show come from the trade. You don't have to advertise because they already know you. But others might get something out of it. If you are jeweler, you can get a different idea on how pearls can be used. In the long run, lasting effect is the positive projection of the Philippines." Cojuangco says

To stand out among the legions of booths, Jewelmer projects the best of Philippine culture culture.

The recent show featured designers Jesus Lloren, Dennis Lustico and Rhett Eala, Jewelmer pearls and makeup by Patrick Rosas' team, plus entertainment from Ballet Philippines and jazz music the Jewelmer band and guest artists Eddie Katindig and Tots Tolentino.

Why the pomp and pageantry? Perhaps both the local and international markets have yet to realize that the best pearls in the world are produced in the Philippines, despite the country's endangered marine life.

Blessings

Amid uncertainties in the economic situation, Jewelmer's business has been stable, with 90 percent accounted for by the overseas market.

"I think we're blessed," says Cojuangco, "and the manifestation is increased interest in the Philippine golden pearl, which is unique."

Philippine-grown pearls are larger and more lustrous than those from faraway oceans. They have a patina that passes on a warm flush to the skin. The South Sea pearl's luster makes other pearls look dull. The pigmentation and quality of the crystals in the pearl evoke a unique color and light absorption.

"Pearls are aragonite crystals that reflect lights. Thus, the Philippine pearl looks like a ball of fire. Maybe it's a combination of genetic characteristics factors, like the oyster and the nutrients from the place where it's grown," says managing director Jacques Branellec.

Cojuangco adds, "The popularity of the black pearl broke the color barrier promoted by the Japanese, which said that the pearl should be white or pink. The black pearl has paved the way for recognition of other colors."

Branellec quotes an international magazine as saying that an Australian producer who was investing in a pearl farm hoped the yield would be something like the Philippine pearl. "That's a sign of international recognition," Branellec says.

> The best varieties in the world are grown right here

A life of its own

Clients have reported that the South Sea pearl has a life of its own, Branellec says. "People would say their pearls were growing from the setting. How could it happen when the pearl has been pulled from the sac, the life tissue from which it grows? They bought it at a certain size. Some even grew small pearls. There's a mystical aspect to it. The pearl is not a dead crystal. Even if the pearl is covered with haze it looks as if it was blushing. There are proteins that create chemical reactions. The interaction between pearl and wearer varies from person to person. A stone or metal adjusts to body temperature. Some people absorb the vital energy of the pearl, so that it becomes dull."

Asked about the difference between pearls from the *tiangge* in Greenhills and those from a reputable source such as Jewelmer, Branellec replies, "Some pearls are good. Some are fake, with a glassy surface. Some are products of silver nitrate bombing. If you wear one you can get skin cancer. It could be also be stolen, or from a dishonest source—not officially grown by legitimate producers. When you buy pearls with a guarantee, the producer will tell you where the pearl comes from."

Ecological imbalance

More than its luster, the strength of the Philippine pearl as a product comes from management.

"There is a saying that if you project an image that's strong and progressive, you attract like-minded people who have a positive attitude," says Cojuangco.

Branellec elaborates, "It's how you look at your role in society. Why are you here? What's your contribution? We have developed something that would benefit people, and it has worked."

The 900 people in the workforce, including the pearl farmers, have tried to fulfill the company's vision. Jewelmer's declared goal is "to recapture the glory of yesteryears" by protecting the pearl farm in Palawan.

Pinctada maxima oysters take three years to grow pearls. They survive in plankton-rich waters. However, cyanide fishing—a method of capturing live reef fish for the seafood and aquarium markets—has endangered marine life. Fishers squirt cyanide into coral holes to stun the fish and make them easy prey. Because of the great demand for live fish, this means has become more and more popular. But with cyanide fishing, the pearls'mortality rate goes as high as 70 percent.

Branellec observes a lack of urgency among policy makers regarding cyanide fishing. "Nobody has been jailed more than two days for the offense. That's why it's very rampant. And cyanide production is now industrialized; it is sold by the thousand liters or per drum. One operation can destroy several kilometers of marine life. We report incidents and sightings, but nothing happens. Even the authorities are frustrated. If they try to intercept, other people try to let the suspects go. Even the atomic bomb doesn't have that much impact in the deep," says Branellec.

Cojuangco adds: "The farms (in northern Palawan) used to be really beautiful, with corals and fish in abundance. But cyanide and dynamite fishing have destroyed the harvesting areas considerably, although at least we are able to preserve our concessions."

Jewelmer also got the cooperation of the locals. "Realistically, if they don't have a stake in the area, why should they protect it? It doesn't matter whether the coral is dead. For them the struggle of daily life is such that they cannot appreciate beauty. So we gave them materials for seaweed farming, but not as a freebie. Experience has taught us that anything given for free is usually not valued. We said they should pay us back for the cost of the materials so we could help others."

When Jewelmer first imposed ecological measures such as marshalling the sea around their three pearl farms, the locals weren't keen. After a few years, they saw the results—the first was that they could catch more fish. Recently, a friend approached Cojuangco about a buyer for seaweed in unlimited amounts.

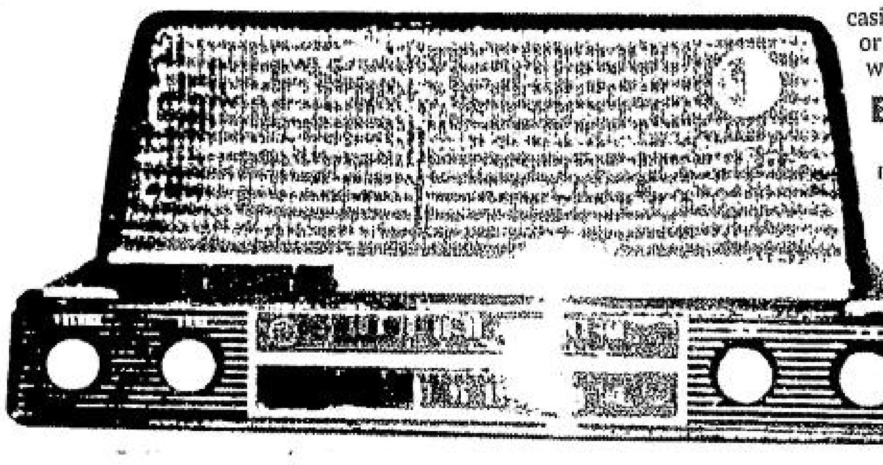
National pride

Branellec hopes that Filipinos would regard the pearl as a symbol. Speaking as a pearl industry pioneer in French Polynesia, he says that what was once an untapped resource there is now the second major dollar earner after tourism. He says the same could happen in the Philippines.

"The Tahitians have identified themselves with the pearl. There isn't a person over there who isn't wearing a pearl, even in the barrios. Filipino women, too, should wear Philippine pearls as a sign of national pride, rather than a freshwater pearl from Hong Kong."

HAIR AND MAKEUP:
PATRICK ROSAS AND
MARLON SUAREZ
MODEL:
ANGEL AQUINO

One man's trash, another man's treasure



By Toti Dalmacion
Contributor

Where to find a Rosenthal vase, 1940 leather luggage, a 1952 Braun TV, a 1969 Olivetti Valentine (all-red) typewriter, or a 1970 Seiko watch

"IT'S fun to compute" according to the German electronic gods Kraftwerk. Maybe so, but I'm bad at math. For me, it's more fun to collect.

I lived in the United States a little while back. My everyday routine after class, and in my free time, consisted of going to record stores and discovering more record stores in the whole of Los Angeles, down to the suburbs and other counties across Southern California.

Eventually, the pilgrimage extended to San Francisco, and another great place for records and music (especially jazz) —Chicago. If you're thinking I was loaded, you're wrong. I spent my daily allowance on the vinyl discs rather than on food. I subsisted on 99-cent burgers and tacos, a couple of bucks for gas, and the rest went to music. The excitement of unearthing treasures in musty mom & pop record shops was one thing, but getting them for practically nothing was the best rush in the whole world.

My other joy was finding and collecting old TV sets, radios, record players and furniture. We're talking 1950s, '60s and early '70s. These would, in time, rival my obsession with records, permanently dent my shopping budget, and affect my purchasing decisions. My usual dilemma was: "Should I get records or a non/occasionally working, sci-fi looking TV set, or both?" For a time, the third choice was it.

Eureka!

Amazingly, I found, this didn't cost much if I knew where to look. Salvation Army stations and other thrift stores, garage and estate sales were the obvious sources of good deals, but usually most of the great stuff would be gone by the time I got there. I made it my business to know when the new shipments arrived. Methodically, I read the classifieds and, to some extent, the obituaries. Flea markets lost their attraction when I noticed that the prices were being inordinately jacked up. I embarked on a search for a foolproof source, a one-stop shop for anything and everything collectible.

I found it: a massive warehouse on San Fernando Road (and that's as far as I'll go with the clue) filled with knick-knacks, houseware, clothes, records, appliances, assorted goods and furniture—yes, furniture from the good old days where the designs were just incredible! (It is true, of course, that luck still plays a major part in acquiring such treasures, as it's not everyday that a precious piece is presented to you. It also helps to have the eye for spotting diamonds in the rough.)

In this particular nirvana, the real deal was the 8 a.m. free-for-all. I queued up with all sorts of people, young and old, from kooks to serious collectors, even flea market vendors at The Rose Bowl, along with the hip, kitsch-loving Angelenos. As soon as the metal door was raised, we marched in like zombies. The whole place was littered with junk! That is, if you think a 1950s wrought iron portable bar with velour padding up front is crap, or a Charles Eames "DAR" chair or an Arne Jacobsen "egg chair" in good condition, worthless.

All right, half of the stuff was garbage. But I saw that the most plain-looking characters elbowing their way in, grabbing things left and right, did know what to snatch up. This added to the fun aspect of the quest: a mad scramble to the spot, to get the good stuff before someone beat me to it. In the blink of an eye, it could be...gone! A few days later, I might see the same $5 piece at a flea market selling for $30.

For $30 in this warehouse, by the way, anyone could come away with a 1940s leather luggage, a portable RCA 1950s turntable with faux croc skin covering, a 1962 "Arco" light (stainless steel and aluminum lamp with a marble base) and a 1970s videosphere tabletop TV set (the one that looks like an astronaut's helmet). What better way to play a John Barry or Bacharach track than in a room filled with artifacts of the era that the music tries to capture?

Where in Manila?

If you've come this far, you probably want to ask, "Is there such a place here in Manila?"

You can start by asking your relatives, especially in the provinces. Your *lola* might be using a Rosenthal vase (designed by Klaus Bendixen) as paperweight, or there could be a 1952 Braun TV (looks like a weird computer monitor with three rollers) sitting in her basement! Ask your friends as well, if they have old stuff gathering dust in the garage, and check it out.

You can also do the rounds of garage sales, because you can get lucky once in a while. If you chance upon one in an affluent neighborhood, chances are there would be interesting finds there.

Or go to places like Escolta. If you're not lucky enough to stumble upon a complete set of Pierre Cardin modish, see-thru set of glasses and plates from the late '60s like I did, at least you can view the splendid architecture of pre and post war buildings.

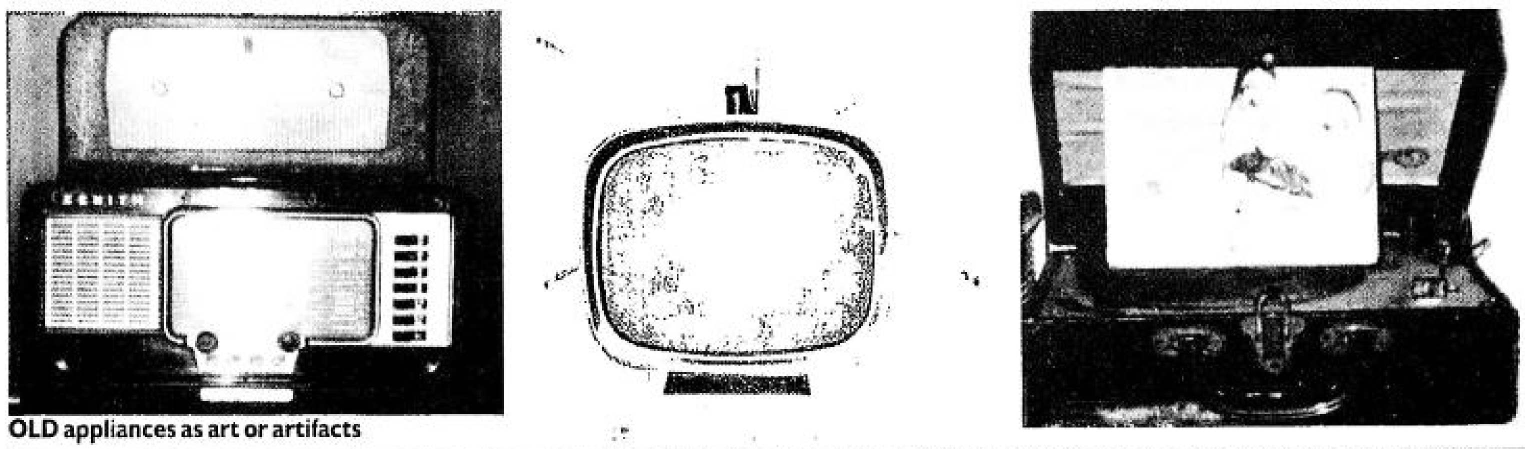
If this is not your cup of tea, take a trip to Quiapo and Avenida, where a Japanese friend of mine and I found great watches from the late '60s to the the early '70s. The brands? Seiko, Hoga, Caterna, Buler, Sicura, Omega and Pulsar (watches that manufacturers painstakingly copy today.)

If you're in the Pasig area, you might want to check out HMR for...uh, maybe a 1969 Olivetti Valentine (all-red) typewriter designed by Scottsass and Perry King.

In Makati, Evangelista street is quite known to most *mambubuloks* (an endearing term for collectors like myself). It's a two-to-three block strip of second-hand goods stores, selling everything from clothes, books, and records, to surplus appliances, furniture, antiques, VHS, beta tapes and laser discs, useless bric a brac, gaudy ornaments and chandeliers.

You might be amazed at what you'd find, or disgusted about what other people would buy, but at the end of the day, keep in mind: it's all in good fun.

(E-mail at vinyljunkie@vasia.com)



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A virtue that makes you beautiful

Photos by Raymond Lauchengco

What is sweet can never be time's victim, for sweetness is the quality of a person whose life has touched eternity.

AVANT GARDE. The eyes and lips are softly shaded in pink while burgundy on brows and lashes give a modern edge.

TRENDY. Eyes halloed in silver eye shadow and rimmed in black emit a metallic sheen. Lips are painted in a vibrant color.

MEET THE DREAM TEAM

What makes Patrick Rosas (standing left), one of the top favorites of designers, makeup brands, photographers and editors? For one, it's his humility. Despite his achievements, he knows that there's still a lot to learn out there. Another is the camaraderie of his team: Marlon Suarez (who had another racket during this shoot), Leo Posadas, Ricky Dalu and Toto Bagamasbad. During their spare time, the team indulges in discourses on how to push makeup to the limits. No wonder, each shoot is like party especially when the gang is there.

COSMETICS: SHISEIDO
THE MAKEUP'S FALL-WINTER ROMANTIC GLAMOUR
HAIR AND MAKEUP:
PATRICK ROSAS AND HIS TEAM
MODEL:
JUDELL DE GUZMAN
WRAPS:
DITA SANDICO-ONG,
35 WILSON STREET,
GREENHILLS
PAGE DESIGN:
LYNETT VILLARIBA

Sweetness looks for the good in things if only you have the patience to discover it.

CLASSIC. The natural brow is enhanced and balanced by red lips. Eyes are highlighted in gold leaf.

Cinderella from Cebu

THIS girl from a small town joins the local Supermodel search and ends up getting jobs all over Southeast Asia. Sounds like a modern Cinderella movie plot?

That's the story of Verna Lynn "Verns" Buckley, the teener from Talisay, off Cebu. After joining the Supermodel search, she has been getting jobs in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan and China. In the local scene, she's the girl in the Panasonic commercial and in Pantene Shampoo print ads.

Born on Nov. 20, 1983, Buckley typifies the Supermodel candidate of the millennium. Models used to turn professional at 18, or after college. Now they are getting younger...and wiser. Buckley joined the Supermodel search at age 16 in 1999. Since then, her portfolio has filled up with editorials for various glossy magazines in the region. Fellow Cebuana Marjay Ramirez was 15 when she won the Supermodel search last year.

BEAUTY NEWS
LADY GODIVA

VERNS Buckley for hair editorial in Female Magazine Singapore

Oriental Chic

ORIENTAL-LOOKING Verns in Jean-Paul Gaultier for a fashion editorial in M Magazine Hong Kong.

Long hair

Joey Espino, producer-director and organizer of the local Supermodel Search, explains that winning the title is not the participants' only goal. At least 90 percent of the candidates end up getting modeling jobs.

"Once you become a finalist—or even just a candidate, sometimes—you have a career. The (local) contest is not an elimination round. We train all of them well," Espino says. "The girls realize that modeling is something useful if they hit it on the right note, and use it in the right way." Parents need not be worried if their teenage daughters want to pursue modeling. The career teaches them to fend for themselves at a tender age.

Buckley is one of the best examples. She is born to a British father who is a nuclear scientist, and a Filipina mother who is a businesswoman. How her parents met is an amusing tale. Brian Buckley was touring the Philippines when he spotted Lindy in a department store in Cebu. He was attracted to her Rapunzel-like hair, which grazed her knees.

Verns inherited her lustrous locks from her mother. It used to be long enough to cover her derriere. The hair landed her a Vidal Sassoon commercial deal that was shown all over Southeast Asia, and the local Pantene ads. When a foreign glossy did a hair feature, Buckley was the ideal choice.

The girl's initial foray into modeling was quite a breeze. Espino, who also runs Cal Carrie's modeling agency, was screening models for a Frederick Peralta's show set at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu. It was her first major fashion show, and the biggest at that point. With her very obvious potential, Buckley was tapped to join the Supermodel search.

Intense training

Supermodel candidates undergo two weeks of intensive training in deportment, makeover and grooming, posing and projection. They have video tape recording sessions and acting classes. They are taught how to talk to clients. They learn how to look fresh through an 18-hour schedule. By the time the girls are ready to meet the press, they already look like professional models. The organizers reveal to them the ins and outs of modeling—including how to handle rejections.

Nineteen-year-old Verna Lynn Buckley joined the Supermodel search three years ago. She has since done much sought-after jobs in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, and China

Buckley joined the search to satisfy her curiosity about models: On print and video, they are images of perfection. What are they like behind the camera? To her delight, she discovered that models were just like other people.

Bonding with the other aspirants, she felt most alive. As it turned out, they shared the same dreams and passions. They were booked in hotels a week before the press presentation and the show. At night, the girls would sneak into one another's rooms to chat, as though they were having a slumber party.

Buckley describes the family feeling succinctly: "It's like a sisterhood."

Eliza Doolittle

The experience prepared her for her present career. From a small-town girl she has bloomed into a sophisticated, well-traveled ingenue. She has learned to adjust to any situation. "Put me in any environment or in any age group, and I can adapt right away," she says.

Abroad on jobs, Buckley easily makes friends with foreigners in the models' apartment. Despite her youth, she has a lot of inner strength that the people around her discover in no time.

"When some of the girls cry, I make them laugh. When they worry about looking fat, I get them to eat ice cream because I love ice cream," she says naughtily.

Buckley recalls that in Singapore, a model from Hong Kong was badly missing her boyfriend. She was slightly older than Buckley, and definitely more cosmopolitan. This didn't faze the plucky Filipina. She explained to her sophisticated roommate how important it was to enjoy the present—the opportunities at hand. She reminded her that the separation from the boyfriend was temporary.

THE EURASIAN look is hot in Asia.

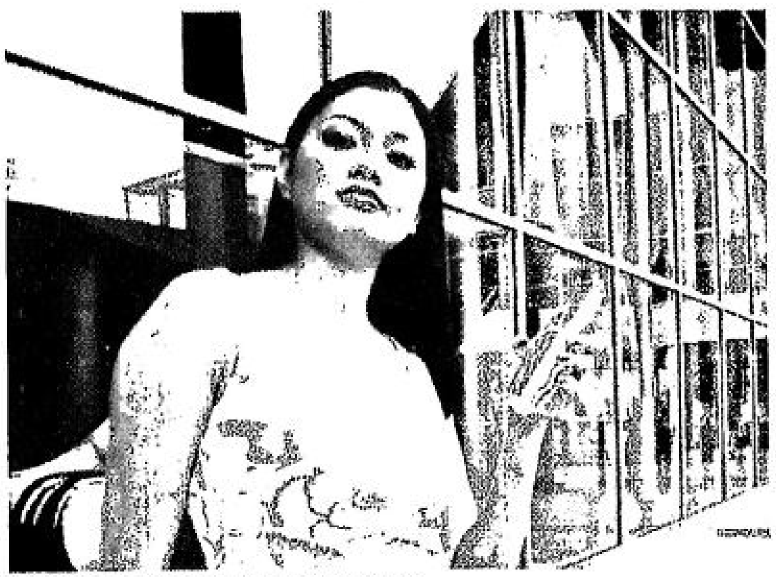
The roommate was so grateful, she gifted Verns with a box of Oreos.

Buckley says she's grown up really fast in the last three years. In a job where consumers are constantly invited to compare themselves with models—in fact, to copy them—Verns' task, as she sees it, has always been to help others connect with their inner core. She knows that this keeps one from being hurt by rejections, or influenced by negativity. She always tries to show others their innate capacity to understand, value and uphold their uniqueness. She tells them what she knows for sure: It is the key to self-esteem. ***Marge C. Enriquez***

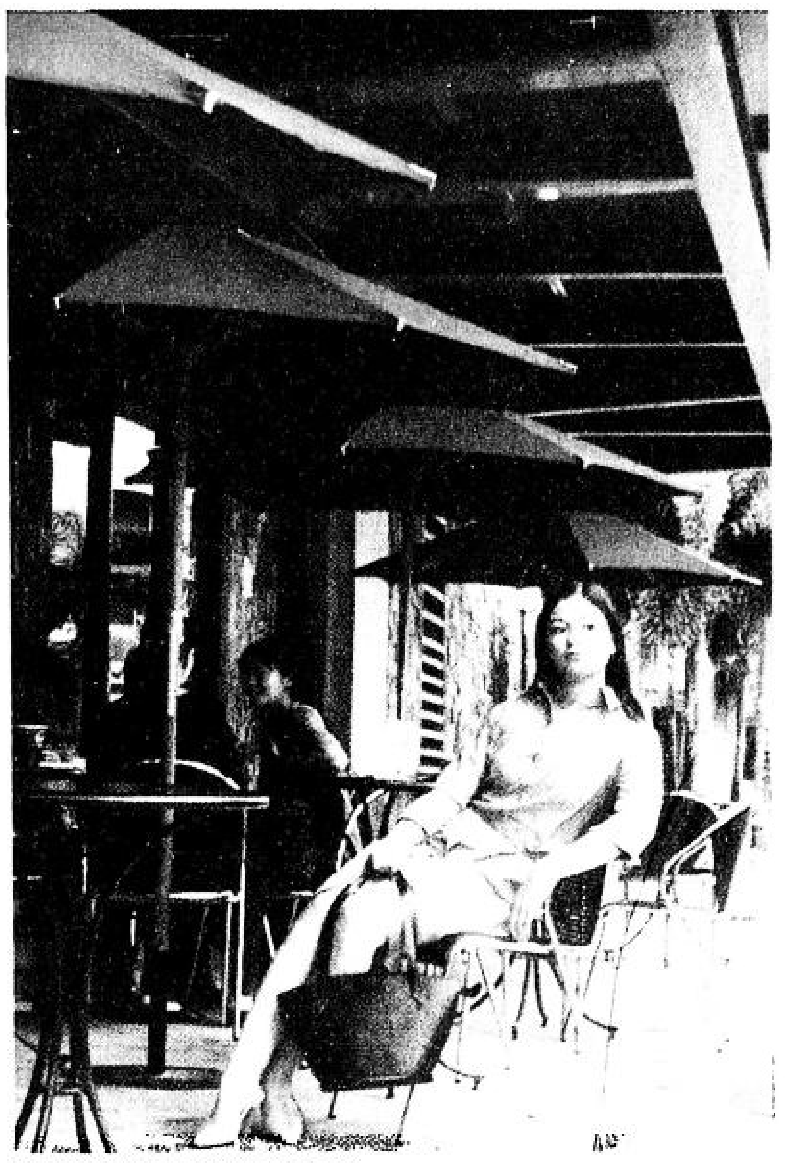
(Supermodel search is holding screenings today and tomorrow for Manila and Luzon, and on Oct. 12 and 13 in Cebu and Davao. For inquiries call Marian at Runway Productions, 844-0467 or 753-3688.)

PHOTO:
BOBOT MERU
HAIR AND MAKEUP:
ANGELO JUSTIN AND PAUL CUEVAS
COSMETICS: AVON
JEWELRY: BVLGARI
SHIRT:
COSTUME NATIONAL, HOMME ET FEMME,
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA

CREAMY as the shakes. Estee's star products and Resilience Ultimate Lifting Re-Nutriv Overnight cream



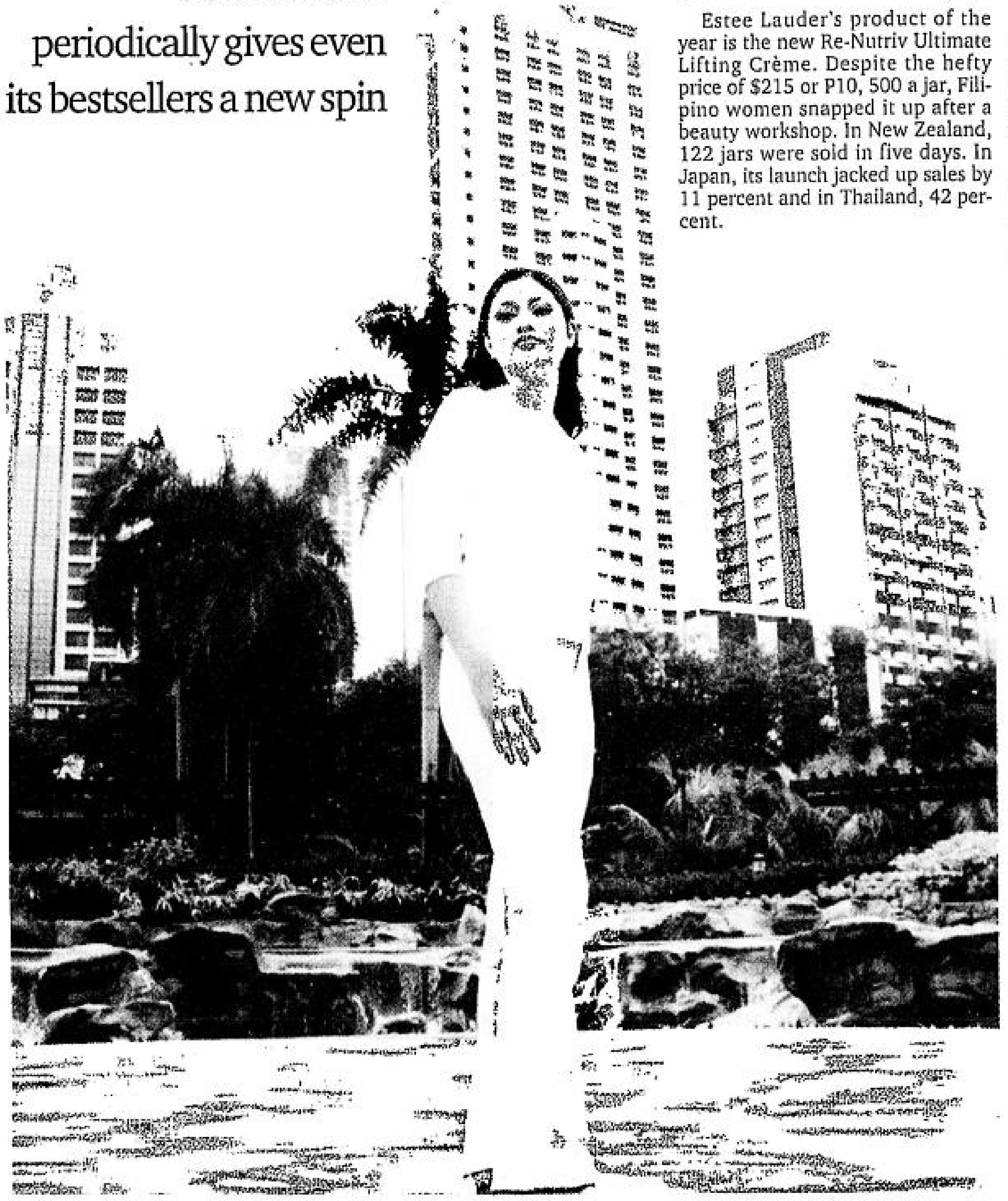
A WHIFF of Pleasures in a new package



THE ESTEE Lauder lifestyle look

Keeping the market happy

Drawing more success from previous successes, Estee Lauder periodically gives even its bestsellers a new spin



LUCIEN wears the Mineralized Fall makeup look. The earth tones go with the neutral clothes.

Photos by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

IN the past year, Estee Lauder has kept clients and the media busy with product launches. Despite grim economic prospects, company sales have been consistent, thanks to new skincare and makeup products.

Estee Lauder's product of the year is the new Re-Nutriv Ultimate Lifting Crème. Despite the hefty price of $215 or P10, 500 a jar, Filipino women snapped it up after a beauty workshop. In New Zealand, 122 jars were sold in five days. In Japan, its launch jacked up sales by 11 percent and in Thailand, 42 percent.

What's special about Re-Nutriv Crème? The product was launched 44 years ago. At the time, it already sold for $115 a jar. The secret recipe was mixed by Joseph Lauder and his assistant.

Star product

One of the selling points of Re-Nutriv Ultimate Lifting Crème is the crushed South Sea pearls that reflect the light away from the flaws to create an even skin tone. Gossip has it that former movie starlet Laarni Enriquez drinks crushed pearls at P50,000 a pop. Well, she really doesn't have to spend that much to get the same effect.

Ultimate Crème is also nourished with luteolin which inhibits damage to the collagen, white birch and boswelia to stimulate anti-stress proteins, and kava-kava to calm the skin.

The user experiences instant lift and hydration. Hylauronic acid draws moisture while bio-available water locks it into the skin. Polymers defocus fine lines and wrinkles. Another complex helps repair the skin's barrier and makes it strong.

Ultimate Crème also contains a rare herb that controls melanin production so the skin doesn't get discolored. Plant extracts help prevent skin reddening caused by irritation. It also contains vitamins and herbal extracts that protect the skin from environmental aggressors.

While you're sleeping

Estee Lauder's Resilience Lift Overnight is designed for baby boomers and women of a certain age who are going through hormonal changes, and whose skins have been dehydrated and weakened by aggressors in the environment.

At night—between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m.—the skin needs moisture most. Resilience Lift Overnight provides moisture and locks it in. It also contains a calming scent that encourages restful sleep.

Color cubes

Makeup has been attracting a younger clientele. Women went wild with Pure Color Eye Shadow, which comes in a clear-cube package. It doesn't crease, and the intense shades evoke a three-dimensional effect.

Choosing the colors is made easier for the consumer by categorizing them. If a dramatic look is required, there are the base, contour and accent shades in the lavender-to-plum family.

This month a new collection inspired by the earth and sea will be presented. The Mineralites palette is not for the makeup shy. Colors range from mineral hues to vivid gemstones and quartz shine.

Crème Patina for the Face is swept across the cheekbones, forehead and eyes for a soft glow. The look may be topped off with lipsticks named after gemstones such as Tiger Eye, Sunstone and Rubellite. For something fiery, there's the Hot Kiss collection.

Pleasures

Capitalizing on the success of its best seller, Pleasures, Estee Lauder has given it several spins. First, it came out with Essences of Pleasures for the "snobbish" woman who doesn't want to smell like the next socialite. It has three essential oils with which the wearer can concoct her own scent. This subscribes to the individualism that fashion magazines have lately been espousing.

The essences correspond to colors that suit the wearer's mood. The warm essence comes in a purple liquid that blends amber and a woody complex. The sparkling essence is a green liquid that gives a lift. It's a blend of violet leaves and citrus. The pink shimmering essence is a floral bouquet, for romantics at heart.

Pleasures Liquid Summer fragrance is suited for the humid weather. This lightly floral essence can be sprayed all over the body without guilt.

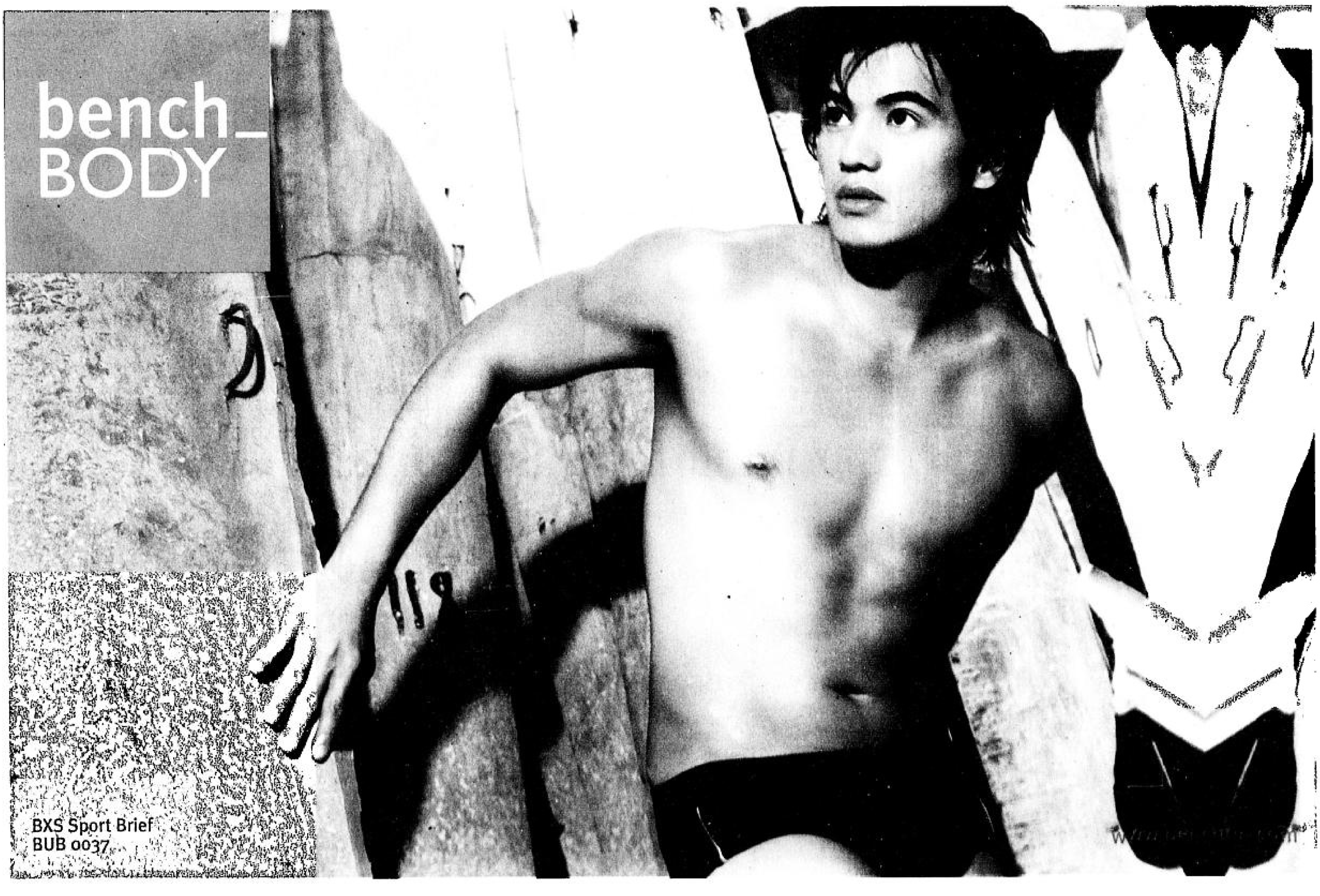
And then there's Pleasures Intense. At first whiff comes the freshness of Le Charme peony and green lily. The scent is made extremely sexy by the essences of Moroccan rose and tiger lily, and a natural derivative of vanilla. Maple wood and benzoin crystals add depth and provide a calming feeling. Ylang-ylang, sourced from the Philippines, is said to give it a hypnotic effect.

Launches

At the Rustan's flagship store in Makati, daily product sales average P60,000. With a product launch, the figures go as high as P120,000. The products are also priced lower in the Philippines than in the States.

Next year, Estee Lauder is set to be more aggressive, with monthly product launches.

MAKEUP: **MECIA LOH**
CLOTHES: **AMICHI**
MODEL: **LUCIEN LAO**
LOCATION: **SEATTLE'S BEST, GREENBELT 3**
SPECIAL THANKS TO **JENNY TEVES**



bench_
BODY

BXS Sport Brief
BUB 0037

NOW OPEN Sari-Sari Store New York

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos

STROLLING in New York's Upper West Side recently, singer Roberta Flack was attracted to a show window featuring a delicate dress made of pineapple fiber. She stepped inside and asked, "Is this a Filipino store?" She went on to tell the salespersons about a trip to the Philippines she had made many years ago. Flack was told that one Grace Nono, a singer like herself, had designed the *piña* outfit.

"We have the same soul," Flack remarked. She lingered, looking around with great interest, and ended up buying a wooden cabinet with graceful inlays.

That's the kind of reception that Sari-Sari Store has been getting since its first overseas branch opened last July 5. Sari-Sari head honcho and founder Maria Nimia Ocampo says it wasn't easy to start business there. Landlords were reticent because they had never heard of the store, and there was no way they could do credit investigation on the company.

Fortunately, Ocampo found a broker through one of the consignors, Martina Arfwitson, owner of Face Stockholm makeup. The broker found a 170-sq m space at 111 West 72 Street, between Columbus and Amsterdam. It was perfect. It had a basement that could serve as stockroom, and a garden that would be perfect for such special events as poetry reading in the summer. The location was ideal, too, close to the city's retail and cultural hubs.

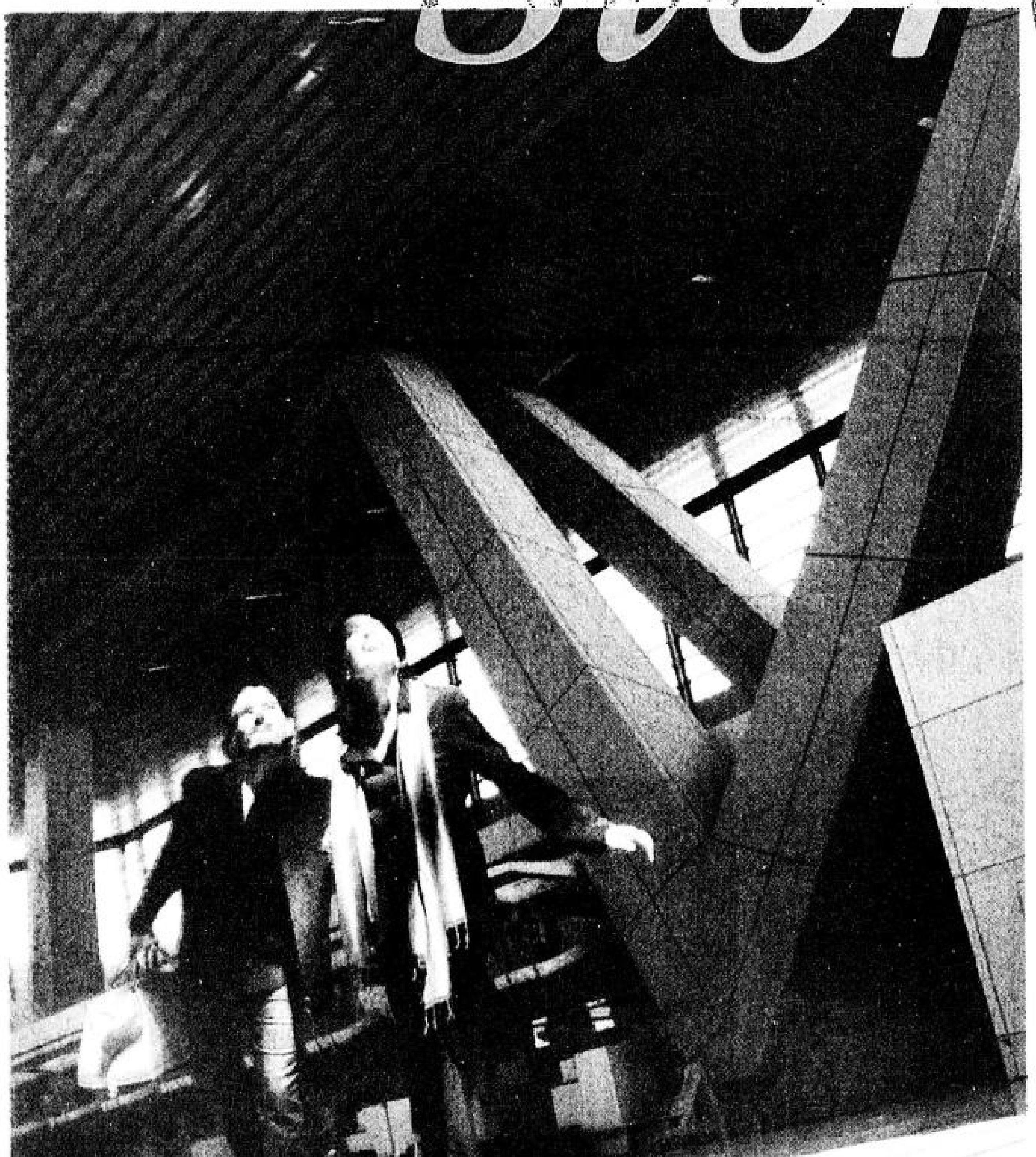
It is near a Banana Republic store, the Reebok Fitness Center, and small boutiques, like one owned by designer Betsey Johnson. It is also close to the Fordham University, Juilliard, the Lincoln Center, museums, and Central Park.

The neighborhood is known for its bohemian charm, and indeed, Ocampo says Sari-Sari capitalizes on its modern ethnicity. This makes for a hip East-meets-West lifestyle store, with vermilion walls that set off the fashion and home merchandise to great advantage.

Clothing for the fall and winter are produced in the United States. The rest are sourced from Philippine and Asian suppliers. Sari-Sari's clothes range from hip bohemian numbers suited to the village lifestyle, to the polished look for downtown and uptown wear.

VICTORIOUS STYLE. On Christian: Camel brown alpaca wool jacket over a black turtleneck knit paired off with camel trousers. On Bow: Red chiffon gown with handpainted piña tunic blouse

HIGH VISIBILITY. On Christian: Olive sports jacket over sports shirt and stretch canvas trousers. On Bow: Silk gown with native beaded belt



BLACK IS BLACK. On Christian: Black wool jacket over a stretch cotton twill shirt and jeans. On Bow: Black suit with chocolate brown Thai silk wrap

Store designers have to produce for the four seasons. Menswear designer Marden Iglesias kept the Manhattan lifestyle in mind for his debut collection. He used knits, jackets and jerseys in the traditional fall-winter colors of black, camel, brown and white. In the summer, he will fuse native Philippine motifs and materials, such as *tinalak* and embroidery, into the clothes.

Donnelle Dunca makes flirty and feminine clothes. She started out with her label Camisa in San Francisco, then moved to New York to study at the Fashion Institute of Technology, and eventually worked as a visual merchandiser.

Another label, Flax, produces basic pieces, like t-shirts, which are priced at $26. If they carried the same price tags as in Manila, around $10, people would think Sari-Sari was a discount store.

Philippine fabrics such as *piña* and *abaca* are woven together to resemble a denim jacket, or separates that can be worn everyday. Tennis star Venus Williams purchased a lot of *piña* tops and dresses. But although the Caucasians love Sari-Sari's styles, the sizing is suited to the Asian build.

Jose Enriquez of Figlia makes pearl-encrusted shoes for the New York store. These Philippine-made shoes are in the same price range as Manolo Blahniks.

Complementing the clothes are distinctive accessories, including Igorot amber, Philippine pearls, and gilt jewelry made from *palay* by Al Caronan.

The home section features novelty items such as rocks from Pinatubo, capiz coasters, woven baskets, *bulul* from Baguio, and antique reproductions. Handicrafts such as paintings, pearls, and pottery, bronze or Oriental-inspired gewgaws made by local artists from the Upper Side, are also available.

Current clientele consists mostly of Westerners. Well-educated Filipinos with high-paying jobs make up a third of the market.

At this writing, Ocampo has received inquiries for franchises of Sari-Sari in Boston, San Francisco and Washington D.C. Well as the song goes, if she can make it there in New York, she can make it anywhere.

LOCATION: NAIA 3
CLOTHES MARDEN IGLESIAS MENSWEAR & SARI-SARI NEW YORK COLLECTION
MODELS BOW VALDEZ, CHRISTIAN TUCCI
SPECIAL THANKS TO TRACEY BAUTISTA

MILES AHEAD. On Christian: Wine mercerized pullover with embroidered accents paired off with black stretch jeans. On Bow: Shift accented with blue *ikat* fabric by Grace Nono.

Dancesport and the busy woman

By Becky Garcia
Contributor

MARGIE dela Rama and partner Louie Tan doing Latin

WHAT'S a mother to do when she learns that her daughter is engaged?

Take up ballroom dancing. That's exactly what Margie de la Rama, CEO of a garments firm that exports to the United States and Europe, did. When her eldest daughter Mandy announced her engagement to Duane Santos, Margie panicked.

"I was terribly overweight," she recalls. "I didn't want anyone to have anything not too nice to say about my daughter's wedding, or her mom's frumpiness. I had nightmares about walking down the aisle behind her trim and well-dressed future mother-in-law."

A friend suggested ballroom dancing as a fun and speedy way to get in shape. "By the time I and Mandy walked down the aisle, I looked good enough beside her mother-in-law who by, the way is a good friend and is still gorgeous."

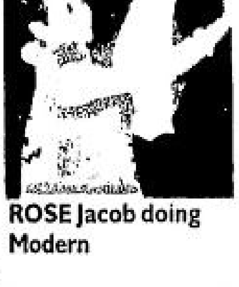
Margie enjoyed the ballroom dancing so much, that she has lost a total of 40 lbs. What started out as an instant activity for weight loss became a serious sport. Soon she was mastering techniques and routines with her partners. Friends invited her to perform during parties. This year, she competed in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. She and partner Louie Tan made it to the semi-finals in the standard and Latin dance category. In Jakarta, the duo reached the finals with a rank of second in Latin and third in standard.

> Margie de la Rama could never find time for anything outside of work, until she had to lose weight—fast—for her daughter's wedding

Margie says that, just like sports, ballroom dancing gives her an adrenaline rush. Winning is its reward.

"I used to be worried about what my friends and family would say about my dancing," she recalls. "But now I realize I had underestimated their ability to realize that I do have a skill and, more important, their capacity to be happy for me. As for the cost, dancing and competing are certainly more worthwhile than shopping."

Dancesport has also improved her posture, and given her more confidence to shift her dress sense from sober to sexy without being vulgar. It has boosted her sense of well being, too. "I am more patient now," she declares. "Laughter and smiling come more easily. I would recommend dancesport to anyone whose lifestyle is similar to mine, and who need a respite from the pressures of business."



ROSE Jacob doing Modern

Margie's daughter and son-in-law help in her garment business now. Second daughter Mara, is a pastry chef who specializes in cheese and opera cakes. Third daughter Gabbie is an athlete. Marc, the only son and the youngest, is a college sophomore and plays the guitar.

Aside from dancesport, Margie promotes—and supports—an ayurvedic clinic that gives free services and provides Indian medicine to the underprivileged in Mandaluyong. The clinic is managed by Rev. Fr. Jacob Gnalian, the family priest who is also an ayurvedic doctor.

Another midlifer who stays young with dancesport is Rose Jacob. She runs an enviably organized household and looks after her husband and three children devotedly. Five years ago, she took to dance. Since she and her partner Larry were natural dancers, friends encouraged them to compete.

"Dancesport has given me the opportunity to become a better person because of the discipline. I also met a lot of new friends with the same passion for dancing," says Rose.

BOOK REVIEW

Over-decorated, undernourished lives

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

The Nanny Diaries
By Emma McLaughlin & Nicola Kraus
St. Martins Press 2002; 306 pages

TWO former nannies who claim to have worked for over 30 families in Manhattan have turned the nanny cam around to skewer former employers. Well, make that a *composite* of all their former employers. Although they claim that theirs is a work of fiction only inspired by these families, there is no doubt that such accurate depictions of the Park Avenue set could only come from first-hand experience.

Co-written by Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus, "The Nanny Diaries" takes us into 721 Park Ave., the home of Mr. & Mrs. X and their son Grayer. (Yes, that is his name, and the other kids have names like Elspeth, Carter, and Lucien). Our heroine, an New York University student aptly named Nan, comes to work as part-time nanny for the Xs and ends up trapped in a living hell of conspicuous consumption. Though the story is not of the *telenovela*—abused poor girl seeks justice—variety, the reader does end up rooting for Nan and hoping she will succeed in exacting revenge on Mrs. X. After all, the woman is just the quintessential spoiled, imperious, spa-hopping matron, a character not all that exclusive to New York society.

The plot, which includes a Harvard *hottie* love interest for Nan, and a philandering Mr. X, isn't what makes the book so hard to put down. It's the voyeuristic glee we get out of witnessing, from inside, the lifestyles of the very rich and famous. The tell-all, non-fiction material is wittingly transformed into fiction and the book flows at such a rapid pace, that we turn page after page hungry for more tidbits on this insanely ridiculous existence that mere mortals like us are deprived of. The New York rich is a different breed altogether. They bask in their over-decorated, undernourished lives, oblivious to the fact that the cost of a single pair of alligator shoes could feed an entire town.

The authors' wicked sense of humor makes "The Nanny Diaries" a perfectly pitched social satire. When Mrs. X gives Nanny a list of do's and don't's regarding Grayer's care, we discover that this four-year-old boy subsists on soy milk and a macrobiotic diet. His schedule is packed with such activities as French lessons, swimming lessons, piano lessons, and ice-skating—that is, after school. "Non-structured" outings are allowed only in places like The Met, the New York Stock Exchange, and the Angelika Theater (where only art films are shown).

The NaNny DiARiES
Emma McLaughlin & Nicola Kraus

Who are these people who have Watermelon centerpieces carved out in the likeness of American presidents and who seem to need lavender water as much as we need detergent soap?

Hilarious as it may be, "The Nanny Diaries" also has heart. The child, Grayer, is so painfully ignored by his socialite parents, and Mrs. X, the mega bitch, is compensating for her unhappiness and non-existent marriage. In this aspect, the authors succeed in depicting characters the reader can care about.

Of course, we sneer at these people who buy toilet bowl cleanser from Europe and whose refrigerators are stocked up with Perrier water, Teucher chocolates and Sarabeth's jam. And with all the money in the world, they are unable to have warm, loving, family lives—a cliché that evens out inequities and makes us feel good about ourselves.

Nevertheless, this hyped-up book—among the most widely written about books for the summer—lives up to its hype. It is a fresh and original take on what could have easily turned out to be a recycled Julie Andrews flick (think "Mary Poppins" and "The Sound of Music"). Strangely enough, it hits home. There is a very eerie similarity to Manila society, a whole generation brought up by *yayas*. But that's another story.

e-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

The PayLite Beetlemania fever catches on

The rush is on. More and more Citibank cardholders are using the Citibank PayLite Installment Plan–and earning more chances to own any of four latest edition Volkswagen Beetles in the biggest and most exciting promotion for this year: the Citibank PayLite Beetlemania.

From September 15, 2002 to February 15, 2003, the country's leading name in credit cards is giving away four brand new Volkswagen Beetle 1.6 A/T models to all those who will avail of the PayLite Installment Plan. A P3,000 minimum purchase charged to PayLite is all it takes for you to get a raffle number that will qualify you to join the contest.

This is great news for Citibank cardholders who regularly tap PayLite for their installment needs–be it for shopping or paying tuition or getting a gym membership or travel expenses. PayLite is a privilege built into all Citibank credit cards: Citibank Gold or Silver Visa or MasterCard, Citibank Clear Card, Shell-Citibank MasterCard, Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa, and Citibank Visa Platinum Visa.

PayLite Beetlemania was recently launched in Shangri-la Plaza mall with a grand show that stopped shopper traffic. Addressing the crowd, Citibank Director for Cards Business Benjie Oliva declared "the next six months will be an exciting time for Citibank cardholders. Not only because they can win a Beetle for all their PayLite transactions, but also because we will launch many value added treats–0% and below 0% installment deals, free gifts for customers and more. There will never be a better time to get an installment deal than now."

To join, simply charge at least P3,000 to PayLite and get one raffle entry. For purchases less than P3,000, pool your receipts for conversion to a PayLite transaction and every P3,000 will earn one raffle entry. PayLite conversion booths will be located inside various participating malls in Metro Manila. The raffle numbers will be electronically generated and reflected in your next billing statement.

You can be one of four lucky Citibank cardholders who will win the latest edition deluxe Volkswagen Beetle cars. The New Beetle 1.6 A/T sports a 1.6 4-cylinder in-line aluminum engine block, 4-speed automatic transmission, anti-lock braking system, dual front and front-side impact air bags, and a host of other advanced safety features, all encased in its modern high-strength carapace design.

Winners will be drawn in four raffle draws scheduled on November 10 and December 15, 2002, and on January 19 and February 23, 2003.

So join the rush of Citibank PayLite shoppers and get the chance to drive home a Volkswagen Beetle.

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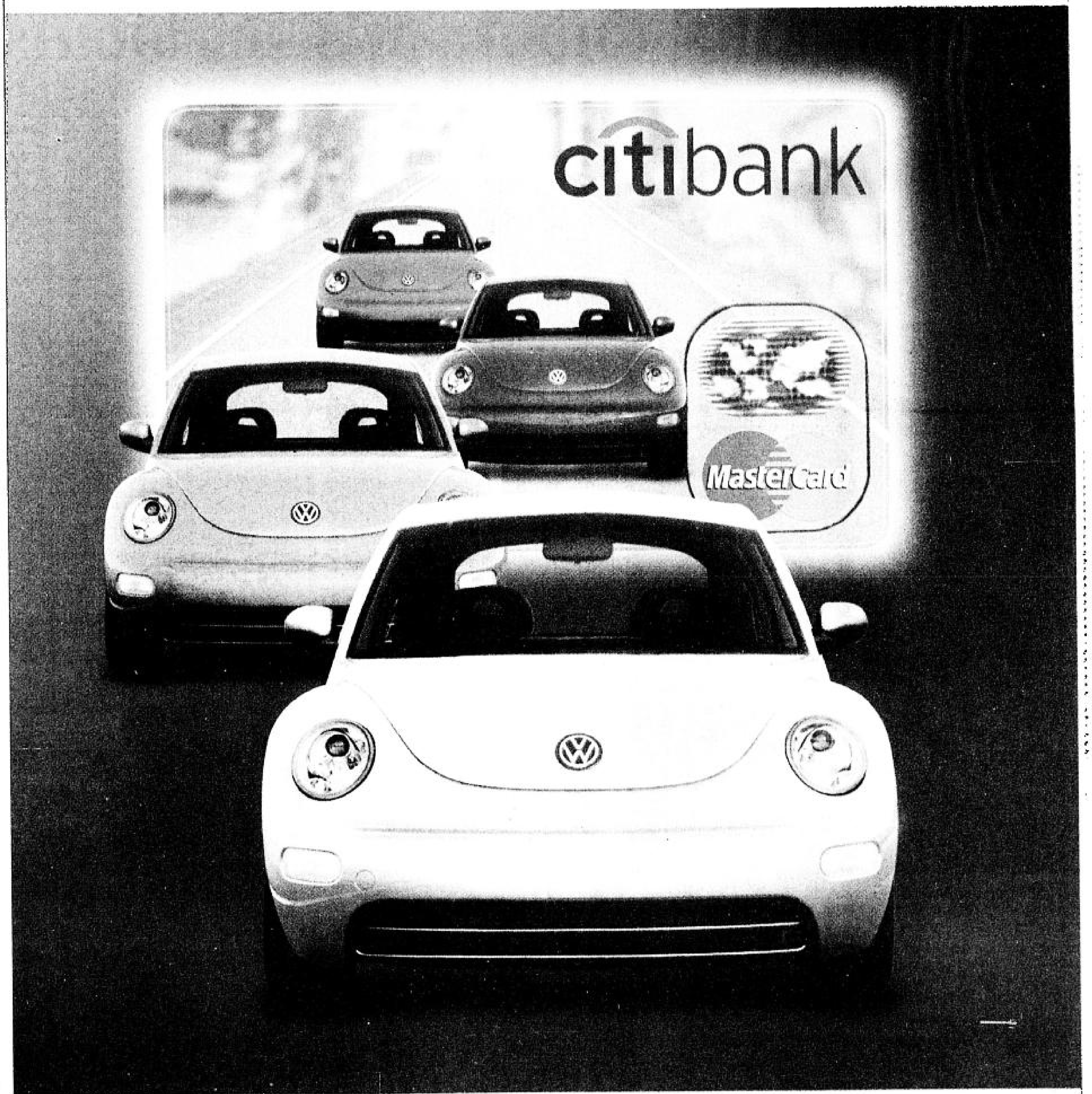

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- Pay low interest rates on your PayLite purchases
- Raffle Draw Dates are on:
  1st Draw - November 22, 2002
  2nd Draw - December 13, 2002
  3rd Draw - January 19, 2003
  4th Draw - March 23, 2003

Charge your transactions to PayLite now and you can be one of the Fab Four to take home a New VW Beetle!

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See posters for more details.

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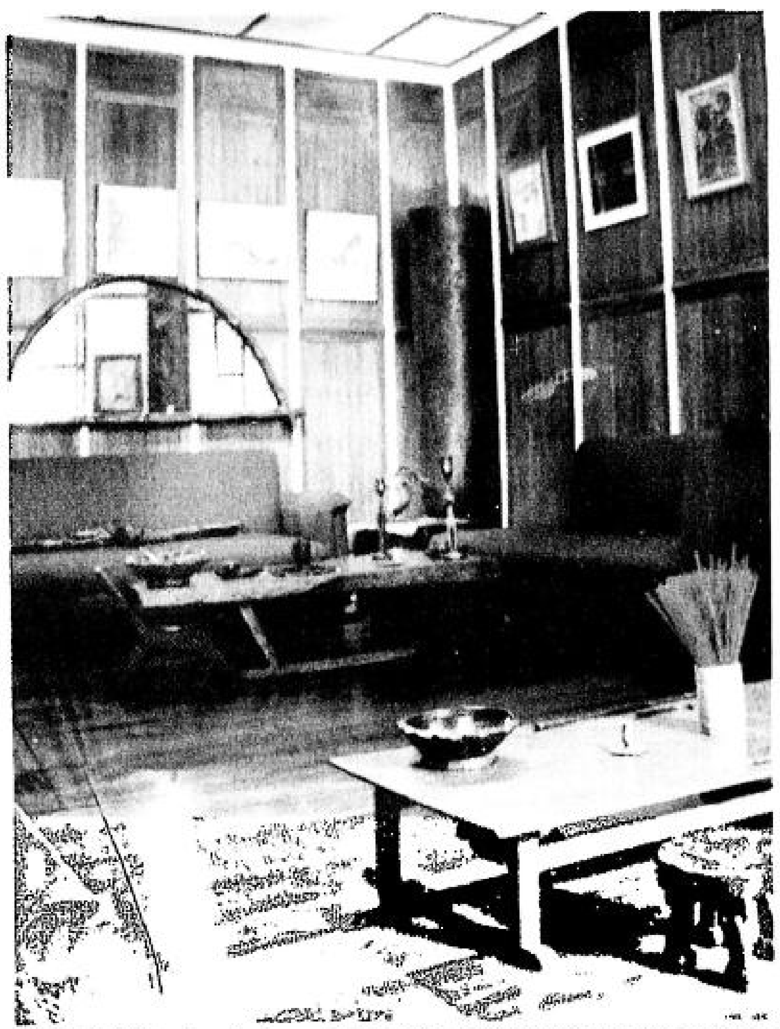
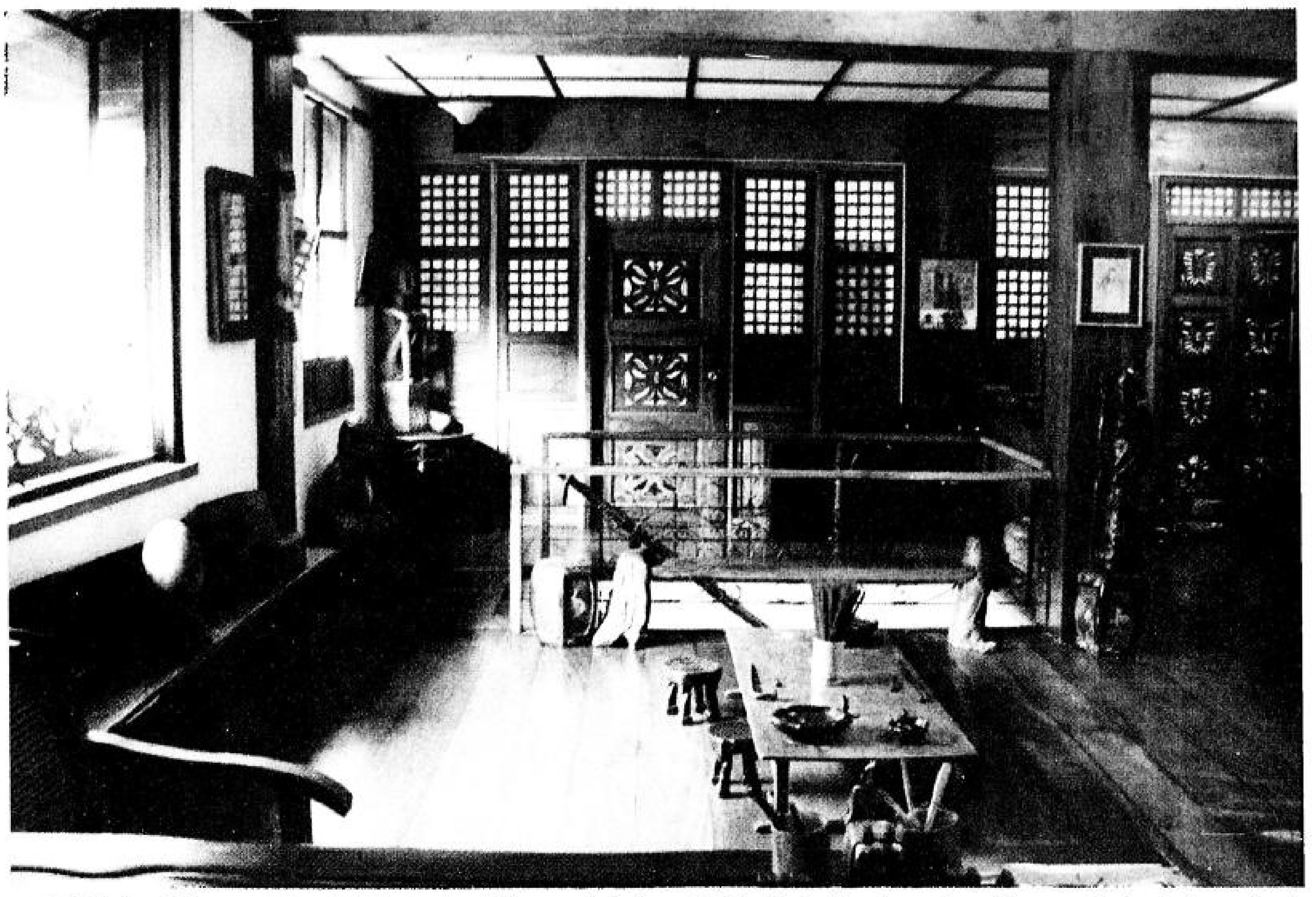


AN ARCHED mirror is framed in bamboo, with wooden walls gleaming against the white ceiling above. A narra dulang is matched with stools from the North. The setting is part of the family reception hall on the second floor.

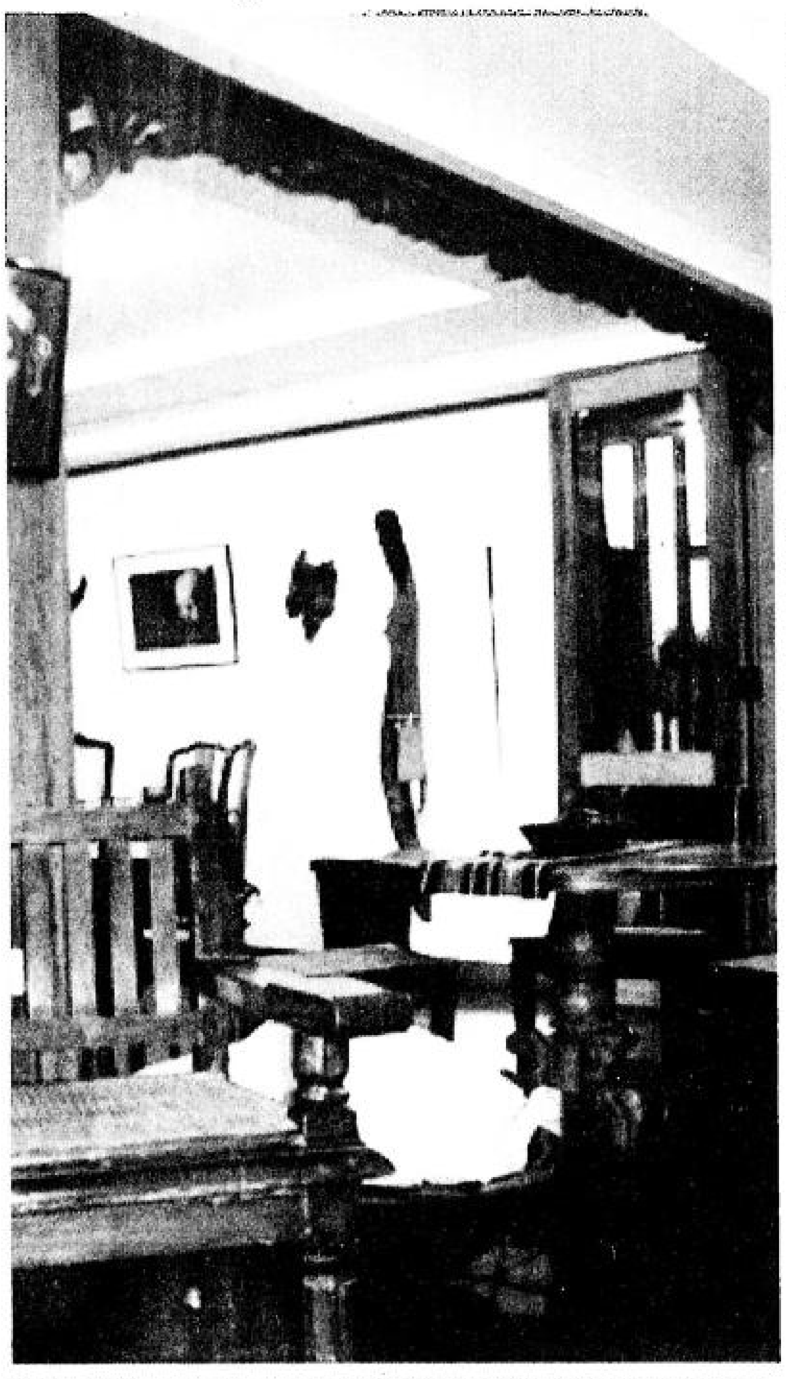


ANOTHER view of the second floor hall displays the old doors and windows which Buddy fashioned together, with panes of colored glass and capiz squares. A sense of timelessness breathes through the house, engaging a distinct Filipino identity.

Today's crafts, tomorrow's heirlooms

By Cathy Saldaña-Nolido

Photos on this page by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana



WOODEN traceries line the beam dividing the dining from the living area. Mirrors, colored glass and lots of creamy white on walls and ceilings enliven the space.

IN this age of chrome and glass, polished stainless steel and aluminum panels, the enduring elegance of wood still commands attention. Beyond time and style, this building material grows more beautiful with age, its grain spelling phases of history, its warmth unparalleled.

One of the most respected makers of woodcraft for the upscale home retains his special touch and continues to turn valuable pieces out of recycled timber, from a studio-factory near his home.

He is Buddy Lagdameo, true craftsman and unwavering advocate of simple lines.

Salvaging elements from soon-to-be-demolished houses, Buddy has accumulated for himself and his clients an impressive supply of old timber, large planks, and solid chunks of antique building materials. Fashioning these into functional pieces from his or other designers' ideas, is his true calling.

Made-to-order furniture items in time-honored designs and without the use of nails—armoires, chests, wooden shutter windows and large dining sets—step out of his studio with reassuring regularity. Old-world elegance has not gone out of style.

Buddy and wife Rosalyn's home is a classic rendition of old building elements put together. Window grille works of such thickness that is no longer the norm, embrace openings in and around the living and dining areas. Colored church glass panes are framed in wood, calling to mind a distinct Filipino style that has survived time and tide.

There are *balimbing* cuts of old wood, starry shaped columns that support beams on the ceiling. Antique cement tile flooring, polished and graceful, sets a dark platform for the lounge sets, low tables and upholstered couch. Out in the garden, Buddy has laid out a symphony in stone. Piedra china, pebbles and stone steps share landscape space with pots of ferns and planted palms.

Buddy's woodwork radiates enough classic beauty to cut across time-tested Mediterranean, rightly Filipino, and modern Asian styles. Even for houses of clear cut glass and stainless steel railings, Buddy has anchor pieces that lend warmth and intimacy. As such, woodcraft from the Lagdameo studio are found in many homes in Forbes Park, Punta Fuego, old enclaves in New Manila, and in many young couple's townhomes and condominium units. These are mostly huge dining tables (one client ordered a six-meter solid-cut piece), main doors, window frames and floor planks. There are constant requests for furniture items to suit a modern home, and yes, even Japanese shohji screens for partitions.

He also constantly churns out narra tables for young couples' first homes, beds for Mediterranean-style resort homes in Batangas, and patio furniture upon the request of interior designer clients.

Since Buddy believes that recycled antique wood has become a limited treasure, he no longer exports as much as he used to. Ninety percent of his creations are made of *kamagong, narra, molave, ipil, dao, tindalo* and *palosapis*. His crew of craftsmen has been with him for years.

Among the new numbers in Buddy's collection are upholstered pieces combining wood with the highly esteemed (Spanish) Cortino leather line.

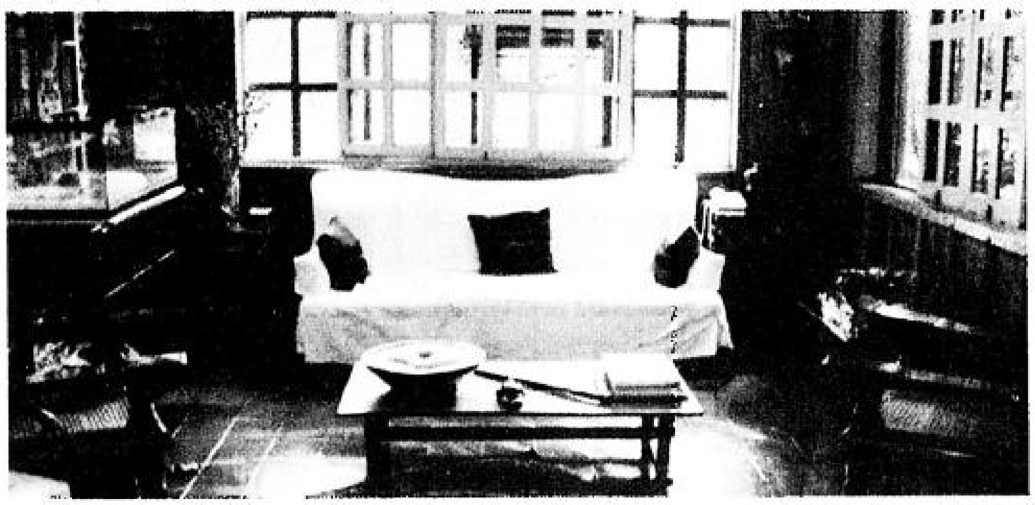
Buddy and Rosalyn's daughter Natalya is a graduating student of the Philippine School for Interior Design and is currently making her own candles and home accents. She will soon join her father in the furniture business. The possibilities in this father-and-daughter tandem are exciting.

Even now, the Lagdameos' work is something that future generations could embrace with pride. Today's enduring crafts are tomorrow's heirlooms.

(Email the author at cnolido@aimonline.org *Buddy Lagdameo's studio-Tel. 531-0497 and 98.)*

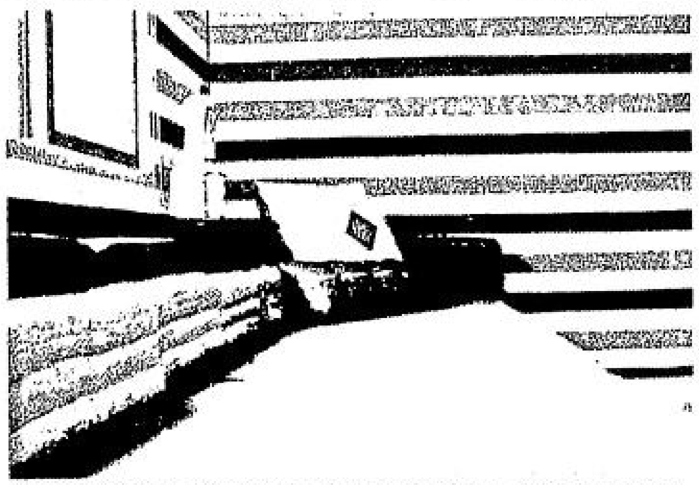
A CABINET of narra wood, combining traditional but simplified lines, glows against a backdrop of ceremonial drums from Southern Philippines.

Even for structures of clear cut glass and stainless steel railings, wood craftsman Buddy Lagdameo has anchor pieces that lend warmth and intimacy

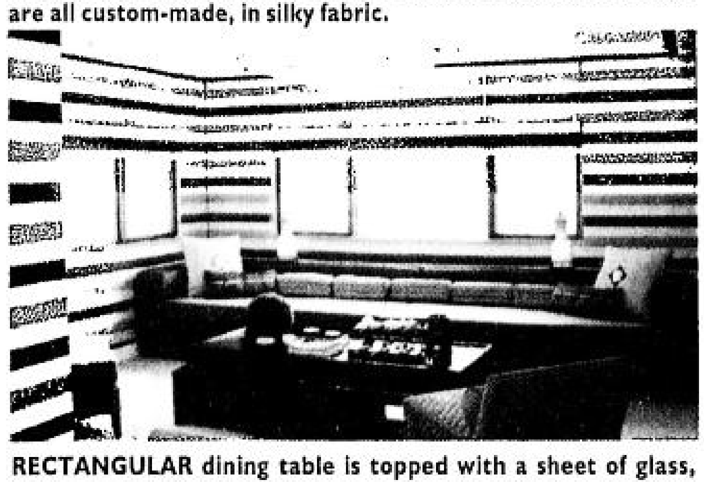


THE LIVING room incorporates old Filipino classics—a Narra dulang (low table), stone and wood accents, with cement tile flooring. Antique window frames are recycled and retrofitted.

Striking in stripes



THE ENTIRE flat is wrapped around with a striped pattern, embracing the space with its vivid colors. A neutral-toned carpet contributes to the "hotel suite feel." Two twin beds line up against a wall, with an inspiring view of the Makati skyline. The lamps are all custom-made, in silky fabric.



RECTANGULAR dining table is topped with a sheet of glass, flanked with chairs and adjacent to shelves bearing accents from travels to Shanghai. The glass table provides a modern touch to the new Oriental look. Beyond, roman shades in the same fabric as the upholstered walls.

A KEEN eye for detail, a sense of perspective, and a good grasp of visual techniques—these (plus practicality) were the skills that Ivy Almario employed in dressing up her condo-unit-cum-halfway house in Makati. Creatively managed spaces are embraced by a striped pattern on all the walls. For Ivy and husband Yong Nieva, it is home with the feel of a hotel suite.

Many factors underscored the need for a halfway house—the drive back to the South after late evening meetings in Makati; Ivy's sons studying at IS; the need for a private zone between work hours and for quiet meals. It is just a short drive from their design atelier.

Ivy purchased the striped wall fabric in the United States. Seeing its effect on some of the walls, she continued until it created some sort of a "vanishing" effect—with the borders undefined, enlarging the space.

Two single beds are lined against one wall, on the side with a great view of the Makati skyline. Ivy's sons enjoy the space, with the trundle beds for their friends also doubling up as storage for pillows. Husband Yong didn't want the growing boys to feel restricted, hence more romping space than accent tables and lounging furniture.

To this personal enclave Ivy has brought her personal favorites from past design projects. The modern Asian feel is pervasive, blending well with a Saladino chair, Jarrett lounging sets, and a long coffee table holding eminent accents from many travels.

Triple A carpets were installed for that hotel suite feel. The wall upholstery contributed wonderfully to the acoustics. With mood lighting, vivid colors and soft music, the place is fondly referred to by Kenji, Ivy's oldest son, as "the love shack."

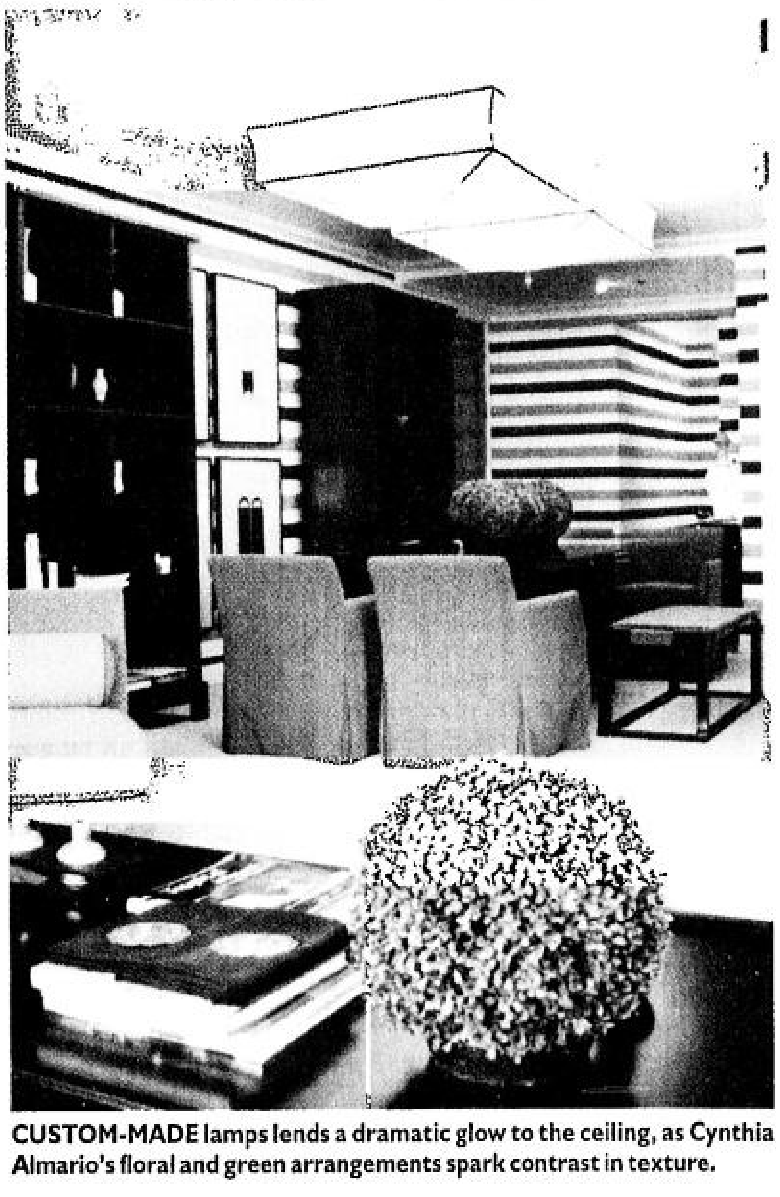
Bangkok, New York and Shanghai—where Ivy constantly travels to—were the sources for most of the accents. Certainly, there are flowers and green arrangements by Cynthia, her sister and design partner. There are shelves for books on the trade, so that the energetic designer could bring home work when necessary, on weekdays. Weekends are spent in the South for lots of sleep, quiet time, and open spaces.

There is a personal computer with an excellent casing and curvilinear form. "Of course, I bought it for the shape and not just for its features!" Ivy confesses, laughing. Nearby, an etagere is fitted in as full-size closet. Bamboo towel ladders purchased in the North provide an endearing rustic touch.

Ivy chose a delightful tint of persimmon for the plaid pattern in the bedroom. Prints in a series—of a kimono collection—are prominently displayed on the walls, with another set of prints showing different bells.

In other homes, with waves of solid colors and seas of white walls, Ivy Almario has shown how hues and patterns can create visual effects that enlarge spaces, how creativity in the modern Asian setting can be achieved without too much clutter.

"The love shack," takes this a step further. Corners and walls left empty are just as important as areas that are filled up. With a minimum of fuss and enough comfort zones, the elements of style still thrive in this hideaway. ***Cathy Saldaña-Nolido***



CUSTOM-MADE lamps lends a dramatic glow to the ceiling, as Cynthia Almario's floral and green arrangements spark contrast in texture.

Palate recollections

By Rachel Go
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

NOUGAT Bombe made fresh every day

WITH the buzz on its newly opened restaurant Soleil Moderne—which, of course, offers a different cuisine—we wonder about the other. What has become of it? We are told that it continues to serve clients of consequence.

So what is new about Aqua at The Enterprise Center?

Chef Markus Gfeller offers diners exciting twists on the dishes. He knows that, while people have learned to appreciate good food, they remain unaccustomed to spending more, even if it means experiencing exquisite and rare ingredients. Still, he has opted to use these expensive ingredients in a way that many would enjoy, flavor- and cost-wise.

At lunch one day, we had a five-course meal the Aqua way.

First to be served was Sesame Grilled Squid with Watermelon-Basil-Tomato Tartar and Mâche Lettuce. For starters, this was sweet and seductive, the soft squid coated with sesame oil and then lightly grilled, and finally drizzled with the tantalizing tartar. Willingly, we bid our diet goodbye.

Veal Chops with Mushroom Crust served with Asparagus Tips, French Potato Pureé and Onion Essence came next. That's authentic veal flown from Australia, grilled, topped with sautéed mushrooms and onion essence. It was a little too strong on thyme, but still complemented the meat wonderfully.

An unexpected delight was the Crispy Soft-Shell Crab with Lobster and Smoked Pancetta (air-dried Italian bacon) Risotto, Fresh Corn, Tomato Drizzle and Homemade Barbecue Sauce. Soft-shell crabs are seasonal in other parts of the world, but luckily not in this country. The chef, we were told, had created the dish to satisfy both Filipinos who crave sweetness, and the American clients.

Braised Lamb Shank with Three-Lentil Ragout and Mediterranean Apricot Topping was like the other two a delight to the palate. The Apricot Marmalade and Apricot-Lamb Jus heightened the flavor of the tender, almost off-the-bone lamb shank. Fruit and game meat make a perfect combination.

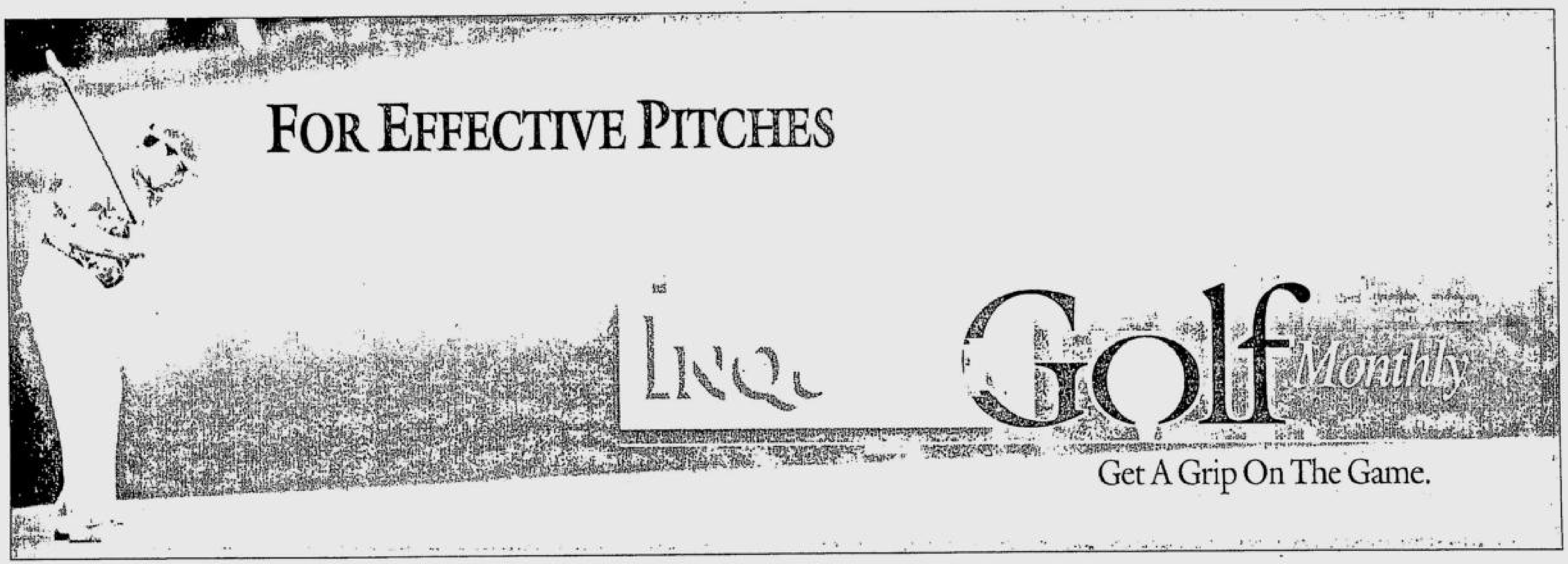
Dessert was the cold and creamy Nougat Bombe with Chocolate and Raspberry Syrup. Nougat is very hard to serve in this country, even with an air-conditioned kitchen, because of humidity. It is best served frozen or encased in a cylindrical mold. Our love for frozen delights—and chocolate—moved the other stuff already in our tummy to make room for this.

To this day, the memory of that unforgettable lunch haunts us.

(Aqua is located at the lobby level, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, Ayala Ave. cor Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Tel. No. 8865768 or e-mail to reserve@aqua.com.ph*)*

SOFT-SHELL crab, tempura style with homemade sauce

At lunch one day, we had a five-course meal the Aqua way. The memory of that delightful repast still haunts us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Get A Grip On The Game.

The Naturally Sweet Way To Your Heart

Here's a delightful snack you can enjoy to your heart's content--fresh, mouthwateringly delicious California Grapes! Naturally sweet and enjoyable to eat, each berry is bursting with loads of healthy benefits!

We've always known that drinking wine is good for the heart. Recently, researchers from the University of Connecticut discovered that like wine and juice, California Grapes contain highly cardioprotective ***polyphenols***--disease-fighting phytonutrients such as resveratrol, anthocyanins, catechins and quercetin. They found that the polyphenols in whole, fresh California Grapes are effective antioxidants, and protect the heart and blood vessels against oxidative tissue damage, similar to the well-known effects of wine.

In the same study, polyphenol-rich grapes helped improve blood flow, heart-pumping capacity and reduced the area of tissue death after a heart attack.

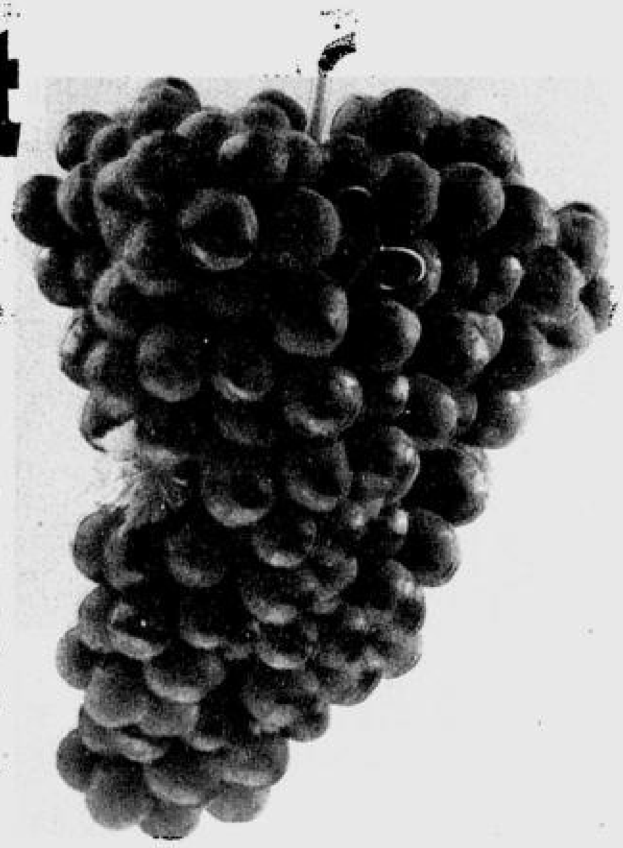
What's more, a second compound in grapes called ***pterostilbene*** (terro-STILL-bien) has been found to have cancer-preventing properties!

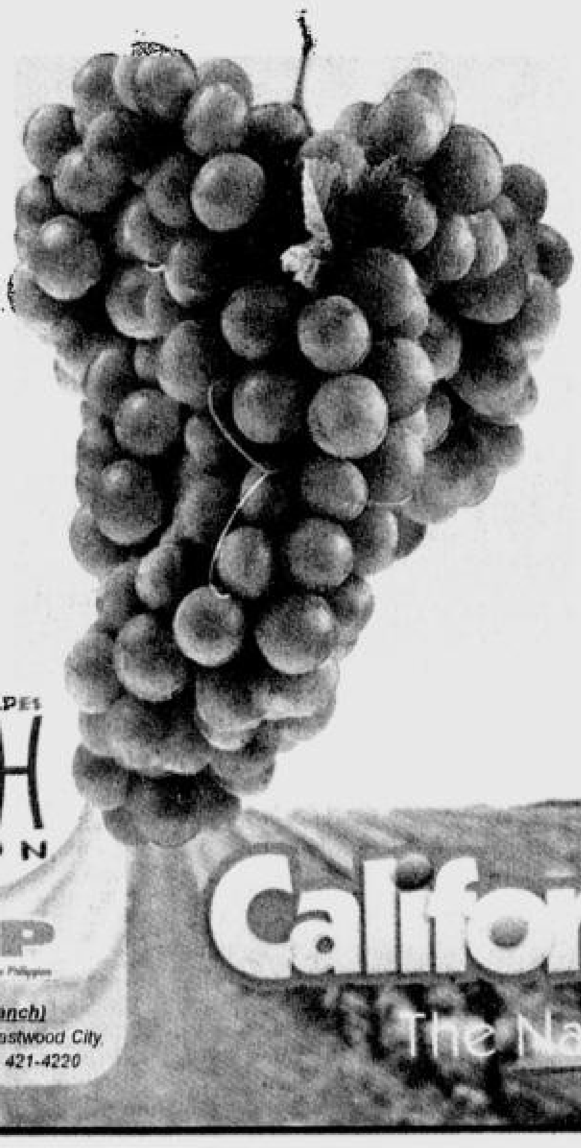
Agricultural Research Service (USA) research chemist Agnes Rimando at Oxford, Mississippi discovered that pterostilbene possesses similar chemoprotective qualities as that of resveratrol, another compound found in grapes. However, unlike resveratrol, this newly discovered compound is already known to possess anti-diabetic properties, and shows strong inhibitory activity against breast cancer cell lines.

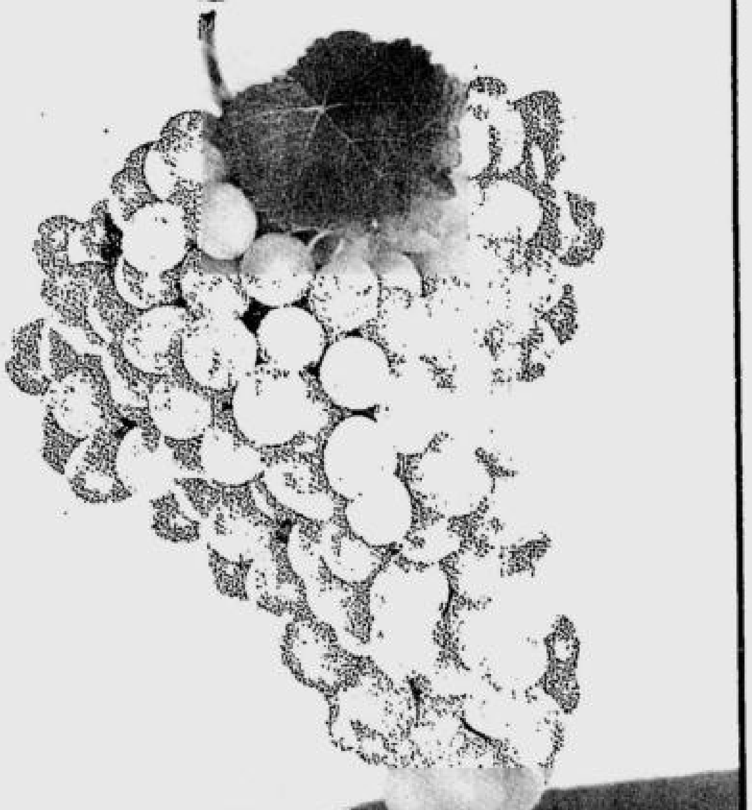
With all these heartwarming news about the healthy benefits of California Grapes, treat yourself to a fresh bunch everyday--whether as an ingredient in your favorite dish or as a refreshingly sweet snack!

So follow your heart and satisfy your sweet tooth! Snack on hearty servings of naturally healthy California Grapes today!

They found that the polyphenols in whole, fresh California Grapes are effective antioxidants, and protect the heart and blood vessels against oxidative tissue damage, similar to the well-known effects of wine.







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California Grapes
The Natural Healthy Snack

INSIDE the conservatory

Destination: Longwood Gardens

SUMMER in New York City means 1) it is extremely hot, and 2) many people escape to country homes.

For me, it was a perfect time to appreciate the fact that everything seemed to be in bloom. And I don't mean just the vegetation.

Stylish ladies were lunching in the Madison Avenue area, tourists trooped to Soho, the city's latest version of a mall. But my favorite plant store's address had been claimed by a Chanel Boutique. And no one in that great big store could tell me where the plant people had moved.

While having brunch on 8th Avenue one day, my companion and I indulged in surreptitious celebrity-watching ("Don't turn too abruptly; is that Sofia Copolla?"). But I ran out of the restaurant like a mad hound in pursuit of the incredibly handsome Count Rufus Albermarle and his wife Sally, the newest darlings of New York society.

I think that was the highlight of my stay. All right, that's cheesy but hey, why not share one heady moment with the whole world?

For the most part, I spent my days exploring all nooks and crannies of the great big city.

A thousand acres

Carrying on as I did, I was naturally bound to run out of nooks and crannies, so my friend and I decided to make a pilgrimage to the US' largest greenhouse, located at the Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. After consulting maps, airline websites, hotel agents, and car rentals, we were on our way.

In 1906, Henry's second-degree cousin Pierre S. du Pont, founder of the DuPont chemical company, purchased 1,050 acres of land in Kent Pike, Pennsylvania. At the time this land was in the territory of the Lenni Lenape tribe.

In the 1700s, this property had been used as a working farm run by a Quaker family named Peirce, which began planting an arboretum in 1798. In 1850, the then Peirces' arboretum was considered the most significant collection of trees in America.

The Quakers did all they could to enhance their natural surroundings. When the property was sold to Du Pont, the new owner made it clear that he intended to save the trees and plant new ones. He used his fortune to preserve and further develop what is now known as the Longwood Gardens.

Most of the newer buildings—among them The Conservatory (1921), the largest heated greenhouse in the US spanning four acres and replete with two lawns at the entrance and a pipe organ the size of a cathedra—were built from 1907 up to the 1930s.

Du Pont's interest in flora started when he was six years old. In pursuit of this interest, he went around the world to collect plants. He was able to build a vast photographic archive of all the gardens in Europe that especially inspired him. At age 28, he became a commercial florist. A year later, he spearheaded the rudimentary landscaping of Longwood, and at 34 he decided to hire professionals for the project.

THE LILY pond at the Longwood Garden. Victoria Amazonica lily at center and painters palette lilies steal the show.

Results

Unfortunately, he was disappointed with the results. He dismissed the entire team and proceeded to do things on his own.

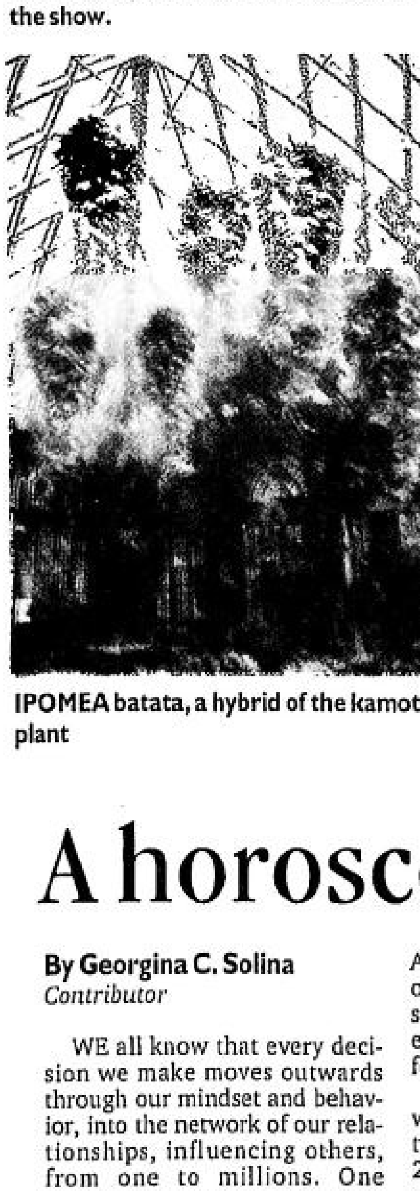
The now famous water fountains, the Italian Water Garden, Topiary Garden, the greenhouses, and endless stretches of French-style walkways and alleys were constructed with no general plans. Du Pont built as his moods dictated.

The family loved to entertain, and the high-society circles of Delaware and and Pennsylvania were constant guests at the garden parties. Du Pont took immense pleasure in impressing hundreds his guests with the Main Fountain Gallery that spewed 10,000 gallons of water per minute, 130 feet up into the air!

After Du Pont's death in 1954, the gardens were turned over to a foundation, which hired legendary garden architects, the likes of Isabelle Greene, Robert Burle Marx, Ron Lutsko, and Conrad Hamerman, to create spaces that, to this day, continue to leave visitors in absolute awe.

That includes this visitor, who has therefore resolved that subsequent jaunts to New York City should all be capped with a day in Longwood, or a worthy equivalent.

Adrian Lizares



IPOMEA batata, a hybrid of the kamote plant

Non-accidental tourist

LAGUNITA I, a man-made reservoir in Hacienda Fortuna, one of Ledesma family's sugar plantation. Reforestation projects cover the foreground.

By Adrian Lizares
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

INEXTRICABLY linked to the history of the sugar industry is the history of Negros itself. In the late 1800's, Negros Island opened up to sugar planters interested in setting up agricultural farms. While the locals were increasing their agricultural estates by acquiring more land, their neighbors from Iloilo, on Panay Island, set out to do the same, eventually settling down in Negros themselves.

These included illustrious families like the Lopezes, Ledesmas, and Jalandonis. Many Spanish families settled in Negros as well, mostly in the southern districts of the island. This marked the onset of an era of prosperity the region had never known. *Haciendas* were established, and the level of wealth and success they achieved brought about a lifestyle that came to characterize the Negrense that we know today.

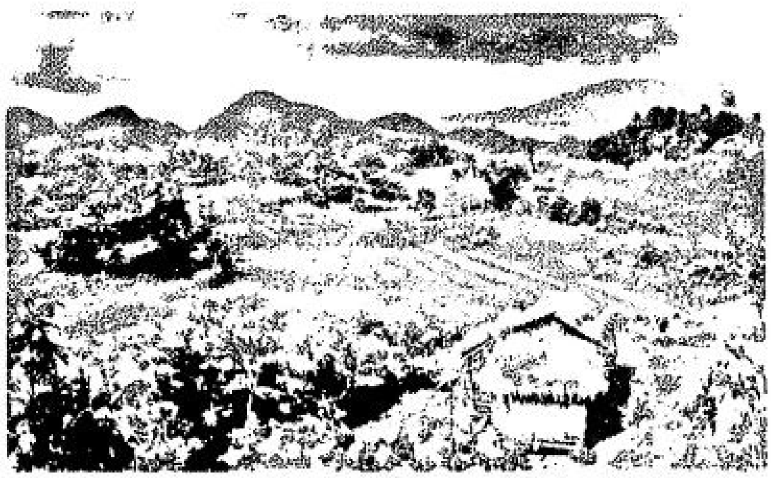
History

During the early 1900s sugar mills were set up to meet rocketing demands. More than a dozen of these mills were built along the roads and railways, dotting the countryside with billowing smokestacks. One of these mills was the San Carlos Milling Company (1912), a behemoth metal edifice that, for decades, churned out sufficient livelihood for those that depended on the cultivation of endless fields of sugarcane in and around the district. But it has been closed for a while now, leaving many to ponder their fates.

Nevertheless, in present day San Carlos City, Negros Occidental, exists a renewed spirit of optimism brought about by progressive and dynamic planning in diverse areas. The San Carlos City government, its Local Government Units, private enterprise and individuals are in sync with a Master Development Plan, the city modern bible that seeks to uplift the living standards of those that would otherwise be dependent on the mono-economy of sugar farming. The MDP, already in full swing, has clearly defined the areas of growth within the city up to 25 years into the future. Planning was initiated by groups closely associated with Congressman Julio "Jules" Ledesma IV, himself a proud citizen of San Carlos.

There are many projects in their infancy, ranging from diversified aqua-culture, to development of newer and more economical farming techniques. Infrastructure programs have also been successfully implemented, providing access to the hinterlands, bringing the people there over to the mainstream. Highland produce, such as vegetables, have brought about such economic gains to many hinterland farmers, that skeptical tax collection agents are baffled into suspecting that the farmers have resorted to illegal crops. Ground-breaking for the construction of an airport facility is expected in the third quarter of this year.

FARMING at 1,200 feet sea level



NEGROS too has its version of the "Chocolate Hills."

BUCOLIC lifestyles

Unexpected jaunts into my hometown of San Carlos City in Negros Occidental affirms my fortune

Peaceful

I ran into the local police chief and asked about the peace and order situation. He said, "San Carlos City is a very peaceful place. Rebels are now reformists!" He then invited me to fire bullets in the headquarters firing range. Charmed though I was by the offer, I declined.

Negrenses like myself have grown up knowing about San Carlos City from the vantage point of a car's window, a 15-minute ride through 22 kilometers of coastal highway.

I was there for the first time in 1982, visiting friends who had somehow made San Carlos City their home. I never really knew much beyond the horizon till I was driving past it last month. I now believe what the police chief said, seeing how easy it is now to reach the remote areas. Until recently, it would have taken anyone a full day to travel the 36 kilometers.

Ah, the island where I come from! I have seen many places around it, even way beyond it, but somehow it is always the little unexpected jaunts into Negros that convinces me of my fortune. How lucky I am indeed, to have this place as a part of my being.

(Email the author at campoman@ yahoo.com)

A horoscope reading for the world

By Georgina C. Solina
Contributor

What we do to others, we do to ourselves. We are one family with one destiny

WE all know that every decision we make moves outwards through our mindset and behavior, into the network of our relationships, influencing others, from one to millions. One person's deed has an effect on every human being almost instantly.

Certainly one proof was September 11.

After the Twin Towers tragedy, the US economy slumped, severely affecting world markets. In the US, the mishap triggered the collapse of economic institutions. A year after a military campaign that brought American troops to Kabul and to our own turf, Basilan, the questions still linger: When will the world economies recover? When will our fears of the unknown cease?

Astrological signs indicate that we should keep the balance between caution and optimism up till 2006. This means there will be sluggish material growth, and instability due to rising oil prices under threat of war.

No single man can "fix" the situation, because it is hearts and minds that need to be repaired.

Normally, changes in the human psyche happen so gradually that it takes centuries to reverse them. However, a brain shift /spirit shift jumpstart took place on that fateful day. September 11 marked a major polar shift in consciousness for humankind. It roused people from the slumber of ignorance.

But there are positive developments, among them a renewed interest in metaphysics. If we have been reading channeled, self-help, science fiction, or psychology books, and enjoy the ideas they put across, we can appreciate profound spiritual principles.

For example, take "inner growth events." We know they are taking place in your life when: 1) we lose in something we were sure to win; 2) we win when we were certain we would lose; 3) we are forced to slow down when we want to go faster; 4) we are sped up when we want to go slower; 5) we suffer when we seek to prosper; or 6) we prosper when we are unprepared or even unwilling to.

Growth events or upheavals are mostly the fruits of psychological or inner struggles. We should be open to the messages they impart. They show us windows of opportunity, and allow us to rectify mistakes. They tell us that a powerful soul force is now operating to liberate us from psychic pollution and imbalance on all levels (psychological, sociological, economic, ecological).

Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto—planets associated with spiritual growth—usually embody this soul force that uses love and light to erase distortions and align the mankind's consciousness with the infinite truth.

We can reverse the process of decay and moral entropy that started decades ago, by cleansing ourselves daily through intensive prayer, meditation, and invocations stating the soul force's intentions.

How often have we heard it said that we have the power to heal, to transmute negative energies of hate, violence, and fear into their opposites—such as love, compassion, trust, peace and harmony? When we recognize these positive energies and permit them to flow through us, it is guaranteed that we will make the right choices, and perform the right actions. The results will be miraculous.

What we do to others, we do to ourselves. The link becomes more obvious as we recognize that we are essentially one world, one family with one destiny.

Waltzing through Viennese cafés

By Amando Doronila

THE last meal I took in Vienna was lunch at the legendary Mozart Café, the setting of the memorable film, "The Third Man," near the State Opera. I walked in at 11 a.m. There were still a few seats left. The waiter, in black jacket and black tie, walked me to a comfortable corner seat, where one has a good view of people coming in and going out. It was early autumn, and there was a gentle rain. I sank into the leather seat.

Before the bell tolled at mid-day from a nearby church, the more than a century old café was filled as people formed queues from the wide sidewalks. I ordered liver dumpling soap and *wiener schnitzel*—two typical Viennese dishes. The soup was clear. Viennese go to Café Mozart to indulge nostalgia more than the food. It is a place to meet friends, for families to dine together, and to see people and be seen.

Atmosphere

The table next to mine was seated with guests, apparently a family from Munich, Germany. They took the spot after a relatively young lady, in jeans, had left. Beside me was another table sitting a couple that ordered a hefty cut of fried chicken. Then Germans went for the desserts—especially the strudels—and the hefty ice creams. In other tables, I saw Japanese tourists.

From morning up until the evening, the café never lacked for guests. It is a tradition that you can sip coffee in any of the countless Viennese coffeehouses for as long as you wish. Newspapers, clipped in racks, are ubiquitous items in all cafes and restaurants.

Café Mozart is one of the three well-known coffee houses owned by the Querfeld family. The others, all landmarks in Vienna, are Café Landtmann, near the Burghtheater, and Café Querfeld. I had earlier been taken by my guide (a former journalist) from the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Café Landtmann, and Café Querfeld.

Café Landtmann, which opened 125 years ago, is the center of social and political life of Vienna, and is sometimes known as the other seat of "government" because it is the meeting place of politicians, bureaucrats and artists. I interviewed a member of the populist Freedom Party there, an intellectual whose views echoed concerns over the impending enlargement of the European Union, now with 15 members. Ten central European countries, most of them part of the former Austro-Hungarian empire, are seeking admission. There are fears that enlargement would swamp Austria with a flood of immigrant from the poorer economies of Eastern Europe, which were once part of the Soviet empire.

Varieties

In Café Landtmann, as in Café Mozart and other coffee houses, there is a wide selection of coffee Among this are *mokka Schwarzer* (black mocha), coffee with milk or *caffee macchiato, mélange* (coffee with extra milk, usually steamed) mocha with rum or brandy served in a glass, mocha with whipped creams, served in a glass, Kaffee Johann Straus (large mocha with whipped cream and apricot liqueur, and Wiener Eiskaffee (vanilla ice cream with cold mocha and whipped cream. One needs to ask the waiter to know nuance of one coffee to another.

Breakfast is served from as early as 7 a.m. and lasts up to 3 p.m. Lunch shades into the extended breakfast time. *A la carte* includes goulash, Landtmann sausages and Viennese sausages, goulash soup, and semolina soufflé. Tourist literature lists at least 25 important coffee houses. In some of these houses, Strauss waltzes are played.

Among them are Braunerhof, near the Imperial Palace; Café Central, which in the 1900s, was home to artists and the literati; Diglas, a traditional café located behind St. Stephen's Cathedral and is a "a paradise" for pastry fans; Café Imperial, which opened in 1873 in the former Palais Wurttemberg and patronized by Sigmund Freud and the composer Anton Bruckner; Ministerium, near the ministries and the gathering place of civil servants; Prucket, located on Ringstrasse opposite the Museum of Applied Arts and the city park, a meeting place for cosmopolitans who appreciate the fifties interior and international newspapers; Sacher, a 19th century café and home to the famous *sacher torte*; Schwarzemberg, opened in 1861 and is the oldest café on Ringstrasse. It has an excellent cuisine and has piano concerts; Rathaus, opened in 1843 outside the city wall and is located behind city hall, and so is a venue for power meals; and Stadlmann, visited regularly by students and intellectuals from the University of Vienna. It has a cozy atmosphere.

City of music

Outside the cafés, there are restaurants in nearly every street, specially the small streets where one finds old, traditional restaurants, with wood paneled walls and wooden beams, smelling of age. Always listed in the menu, aside from the liver dumpling soup (with variations of shredded pancake or semolina dumpling), are goulash and boiled meat, with potato, vegetables. In one of these restaurants, I ordered venison casserole.

Vienna is also city of music, Strauss waltzes and Mozart, of the State Opera, the Musikverein, home to the Vienna Philharmonic, where the famous New Year concert has been held for years. The concert visit is not complete you miss at the Strauss concerts at the Kursalon at the City Park, where there is a statue of Johann Strauss; and the Volksoper for the operettas. The day ends up where it begins—in the coffee house.

Citizens of this picturesque city spend time in cafés to indulge in nostalgia more than in the the food

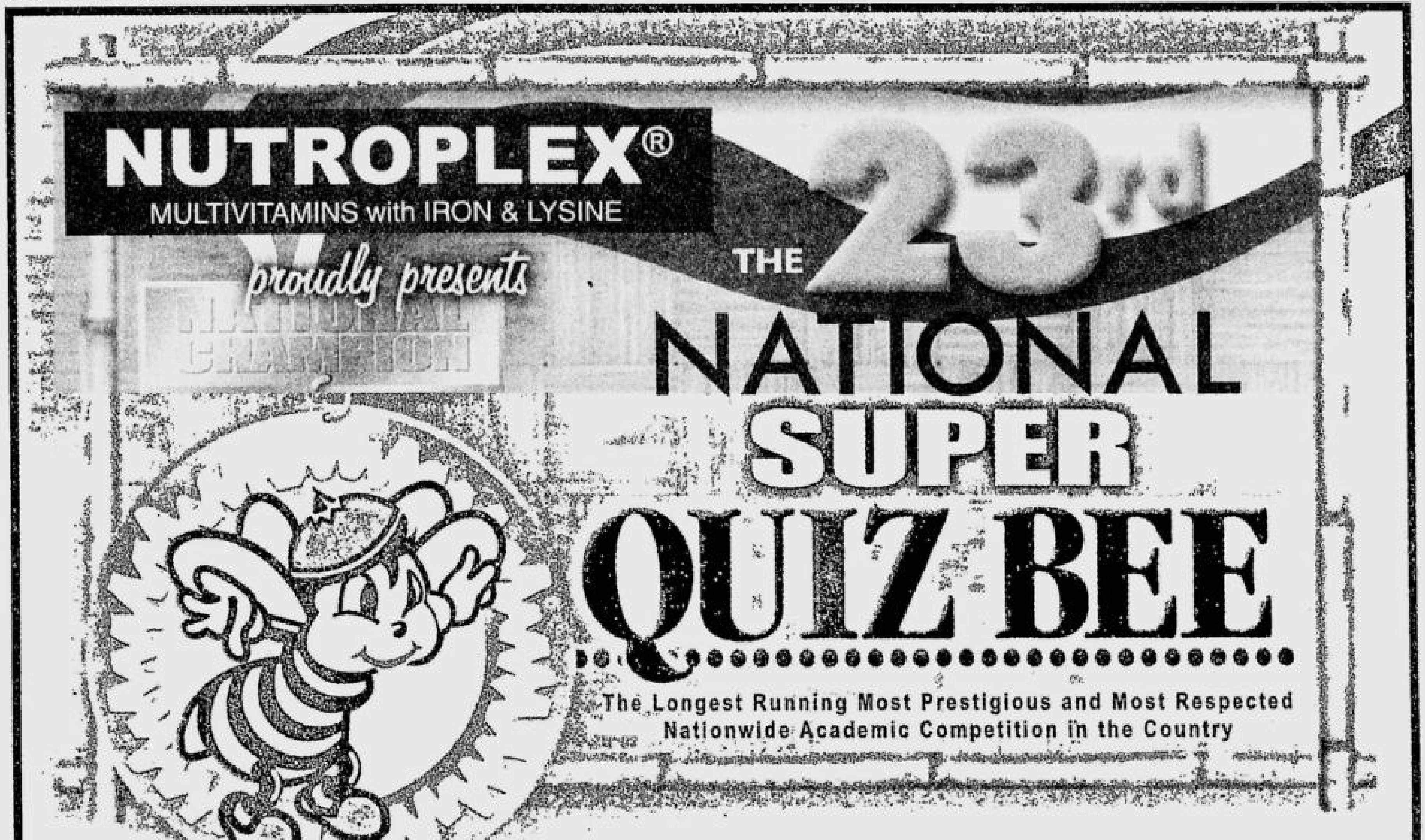
CAFÉ Landtmann is the city's center of socio-political activities.

SM Megamall is mobile health station's last stop

A STUDY conducted recently by the University of Connecticut showed that fresh table grapes from California contained the same heart-protective compounds as those found in grape juice and red wine: polyphenols, a class of phytonutrients.

The California Table Grape Commission is currently promoting the benefits of eating fresh grapes to boost a healthy lifestyle. Ongoing is the California Table Grapes Health Station Mall Tour, now in its final week at SM Megamall, until Oct. 9.

This mobile station entitles customers of California Table Grapes to a free health exam consisting of body mass indexing, blood pressure check-up, flexibility and cardio-vascular fitness tests.



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C. School, Division, Region	President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Trophy

Schedule of Competitions

Division Contest for NCR	Competition Date 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Venue	Telecast Dates Sat 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Div. of Muntinlupa, Taguig, Pateros & Div. of Parañaque, Las Piñas	Sat., Sept. 14	TOWN	Oct. 5 & 12
Div. of Manila & Div. of Pasay City	Sat., Sept. 21	SM MANILA	Oct.19 & 26
Div. of Quezon City & Div. of Makati City	Sat., Oct. 5	MALL	Nov. 2 & 9
Div. of Pasig, Marikina, San Juan & Div. of Mandaluyong City	Sat., Oct. 19	Robinsons Galleria	Nov. 16 & 23
Div. of Caloocan City & Div. of Valenzuela, Malabon, Navotas	Fri., Oct. 25	THE SM CITY	Nov. 30 & Dec. 7
Metro Manila Regional Finals	Fri., Nov. 8	Robinsons Place	Dec. 14 & 21

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A project of the Quiz Bee Foundation in cooperation with the Office of the President, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Department of Interior and Local Governent (DILG)

Simply Me

By **Vera Enriquez-Isberto**

Casual clothing label Giordano stretches its comfort and style possibilities with a fabulous, flexible fiber from DuPont.

When it comes to fashion, a Filipino is both a clotheshorse and a creature of comfort. Thus, for an outfit to work, it not only has to make you look like a million bucks, it has to make you feel like a million bucks. Giordano has been doing exactly that since it caused a shopping stir in its mall debut at SM City back in 1989. As the purveyor of quality casual clothing, the popular Hong Kong-based brand has consistently dressed Pinoys with luxurious tops and shirts, just-right-fitting jeans, and accessories that agree with almost everything in your closet.

These days, Giordano affirms its look-good-feel-good philosophy of fashion by incorporating Lycra into a collection. A revolutionary fiber invented and produced by DuPont, Lycra boasts amazing elastic properties: it can stretch up to seven times its original length and still recover its shape once the tension is released. With Lycra woven into Giordano's staple pieces--men's and ladies' jeans, shirts, khakis, and slacks--clients are assured of a close-fitting, crease-free and comfortable look and feel round-the-clock.

"Lycra adds life to clothes as it creates comfort, fit, freedom of movement and shape retention," avers a Giordano insider.

Since Lycra-infused apparel creates a comfortable cling to the body, Giordano recommends ladies with a petite frame to try on mini tees and mini polos, while those with a medium and large silhouette can go for woven shirts. As for the men, polo shirts and crew neck tees makes for a snug fit on a trim and toned body, and woven shirts are best for guys with a basic built. For eye-catching results, you can either pair off pieces from Giordano's Lycra Comfort collection--or stretch your imagination altogether! A snug tee offers an interesting contrast to loose-fitting trousers, roomy cargo shorts, or a flowing, feminine skirt. Similarly, slimming, stretch pants make your legs look longer--especially when you top it with a shirt of the same shade.

After wearing Lycra, now comes the business of caring for Lycra. As the fiber is a secondary component in a main fabric (like denim, cotton or polyester), Giordano suggests following the care instructions found in its clothing tags. A truly resilient fiber, Lycra easily withstands handwashing, machine washing, dry cleaning and low temperature washing and drying, and may even improve in quality after repeated trips to the laundry. Still, if there's anything you should avoid, it's chlorine bleach; the powerful cleansing agent has been known to discolor and eventually break even the most elastic of materials.

Thirteen years after captivating clients with its timeless designs, mix-matchable colors, high-standard workmanship and value for money, Giordano gives Filipinos yet another good reason to keep wearing its clothes. With DuPont's groundbreaking fiber now in its apparel, Giordano has finally achieved what other retail labels can only dream of: fashion that fits and feels like second skin.

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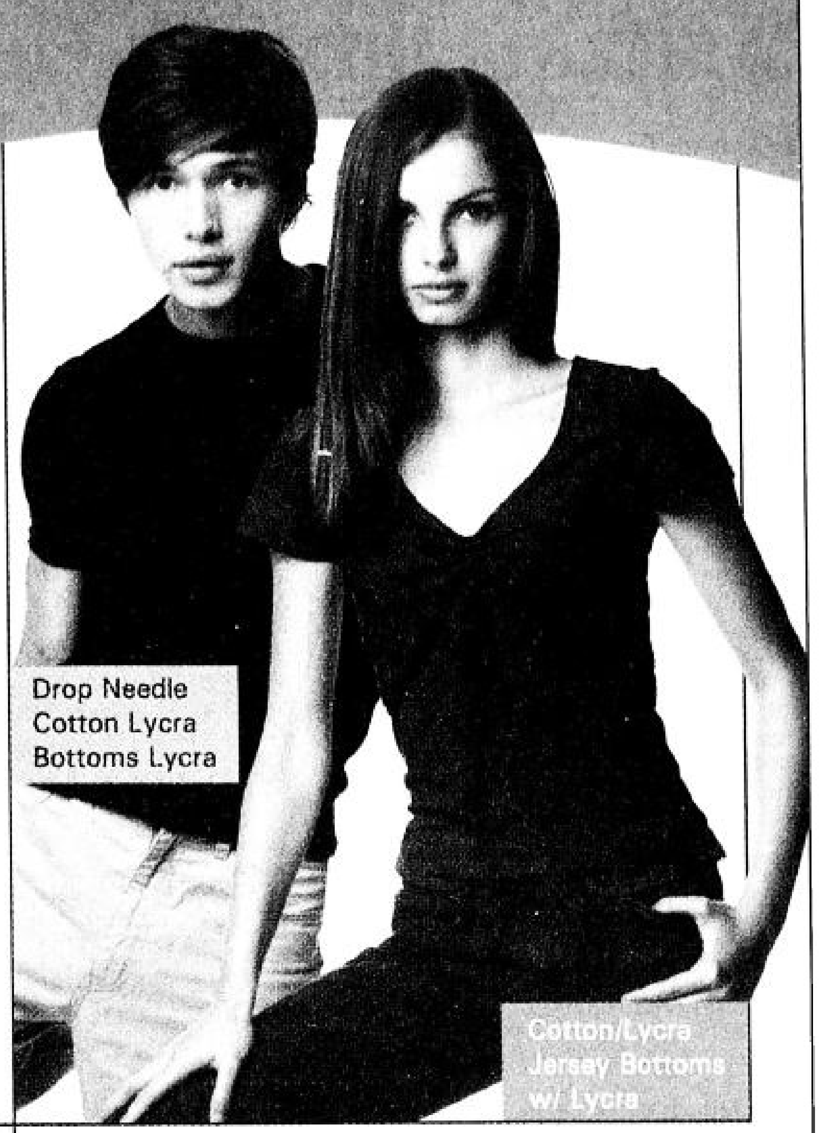
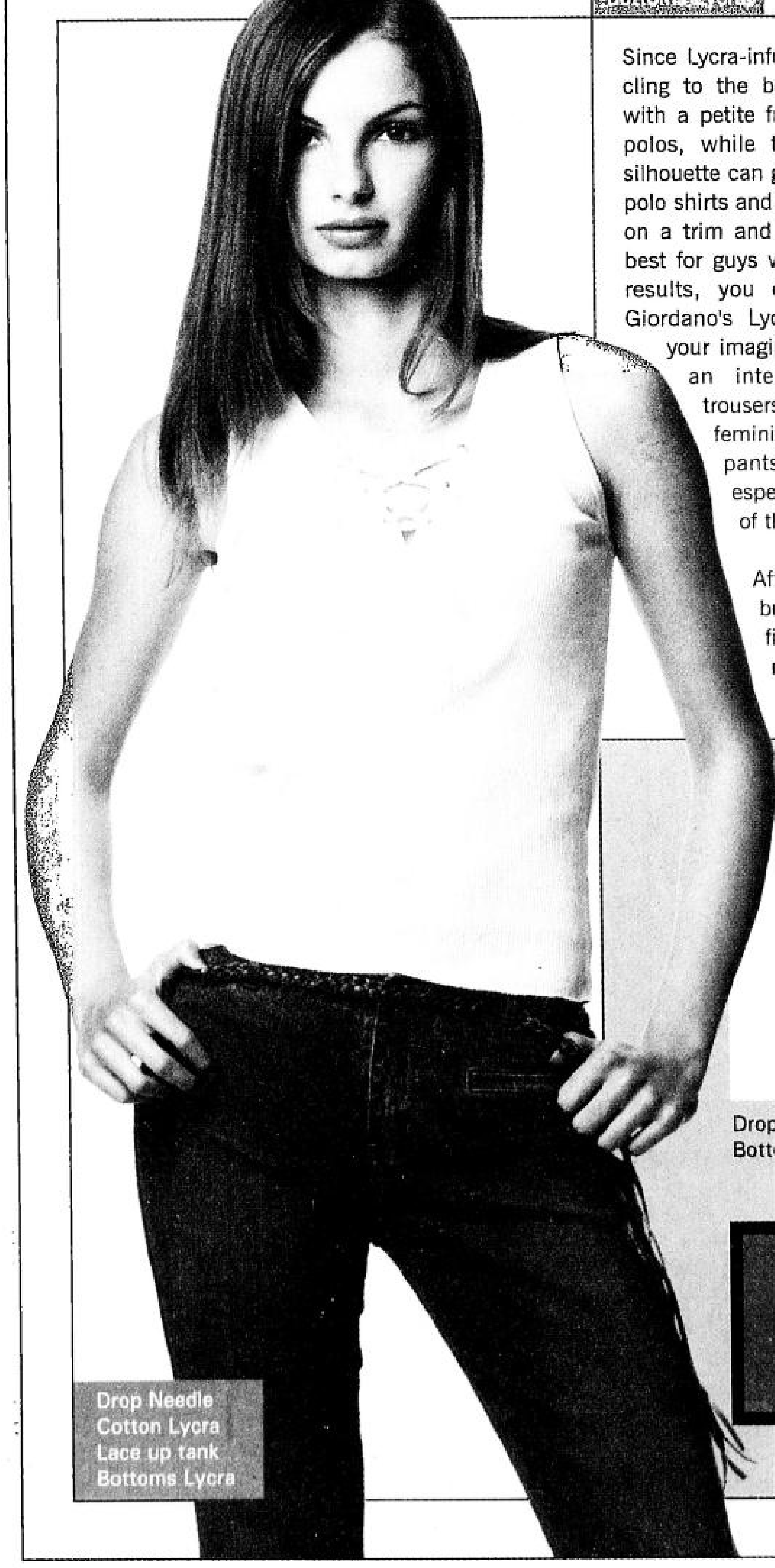


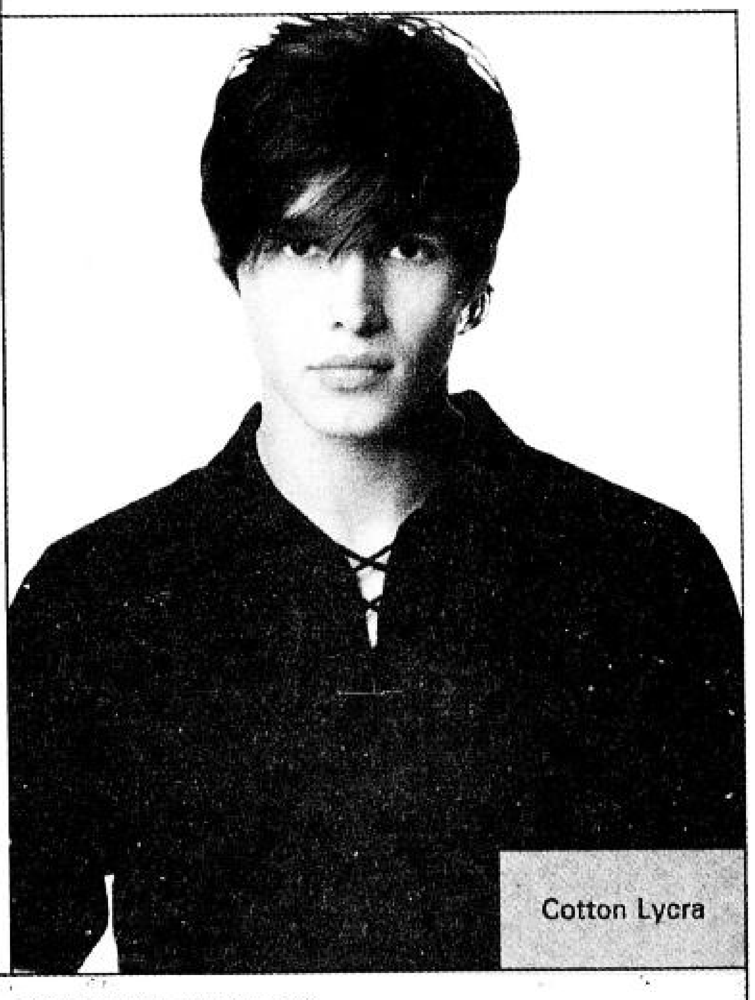
Drop Needle
Cotton Lycra
Bottoms Lycra

Cotton/Lycra
Jersey Bottoms
w/ Lycra

Drop Needle
Cotton Lycra
Bottoms Lycra



Drop Needle
Cotton Lycra
Lace up tank
Bottoms Lycra



Cotton Lycra

Drop Needle Cotton Lycra
Bottoms Lycra

Drop Needle Cotton Lycra
Lace up Tank

Lycra Plane Bottoms Lycra

GIORDANO

SATURDAY*Special*

Editor **Nestor U. Torre** ● *Associate Editor* **Edmund L. Sicam**

"FRIENDS." Its season opener was watched by more than 33 million viewers.

'Friends' beats competition at start of ninth TV season

By Ben Berkowitz

LOS ANGELES—With "Friends" like this, who needs other TV shows?

NBC's star comedy, fresh off its first Emmy award for best comedy series, stomped on the competition on Thursday night, drawing an average of 33.3 million viewers for its ninth season opener, according to Nielsen Media Research, which the network said is its best premiere rating ever.

The stellar debut comes as speculation runs rampant in Hollywood that this may not be the show's last season, despite public vows from the cast and network to the contrary.

Besides its overall rating, the show scored big in the key 18-49 age demographic, prized by advertisers. In that category, the show drew a 16.1 rating and a 41 share. Each rating point represents one percent of television households, while share refers to the percentage of television sets in use at a particular time tuned to a particular program.

The episode was highly anticipated, as last season's finale was something of a cliffhanger.

As the eighth season ended, Jennifer Aniston's character Rachel gave birth to a baby by David Schwimmer's Ross. He was on his way to Rachel's hospital room to propose marriage when Matt LeBlanc's character Joey discovered the ring in Ross's coat pocket and "accidentally" proposed to Rachel, who accepted.

In Thursday night's opener, Ross walked in on the confusion in Rachel's hospital room, while their friend Phoebe, played by Lisa Kudrow, assumed that Ross had made the proposal and not Joey. The episode ended with no one engaged to Rachel, though a potential love triangle scenario remained in place.

Also strong was the ninth-season premiere of medical drama "ER," which drew 26.7 million viewers, compared with 28.2 million for last season's premiere.

ABC finishes last

ABC, which has acknowledged it needs to rebuild after struggling last season, finished last for the night, losing to NBC and CBS in all time periods.

The season premiere of "Monk" drew 7.2 million viewers in the 8-9 p.m. window, less than CBS and NBC but ahead of Fox.

However, the network said the show enjoyed 1.2 million viewers more than the same period last year, and gave ABC its largest audience in the slot since April.

In the 9 p.m. hour the network's "Push, Nevada," a drama produced by actor Ben Affleck, finished last, even behind the second hour of the movie "Rush Hour" on Fox, a 1998 comedy starring Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker.

'Survivor,' 'CSI' boost CBS

CBS was also glowing Friday morning, saying their evening was their closest performance to NBC for a Thursday premiere night since the 1990-1991 season.

The network's "Survivor: Thailand" drew 21.4 million viewers, losing to "Friends" at 8 p.m. but beating the season premiere of NBC's hospital comedy "Scrubs" at 8:30 p.m.

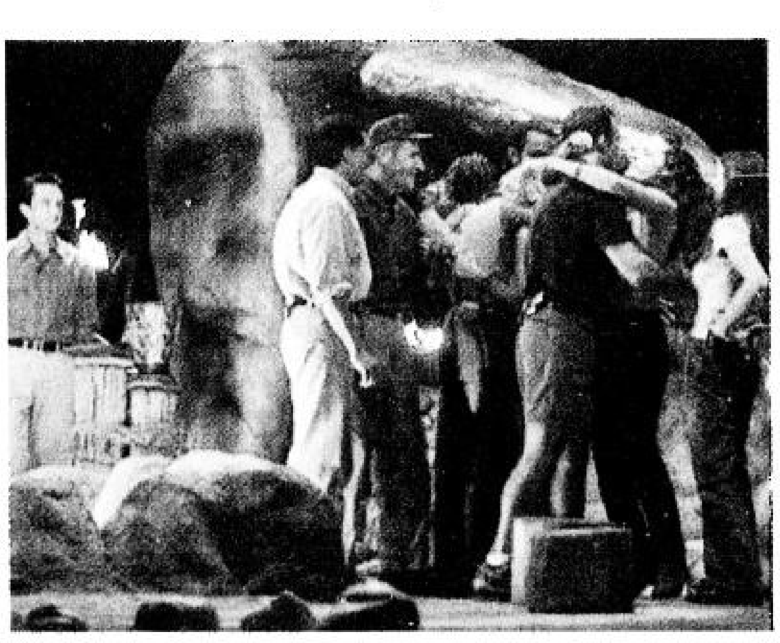
At 9 p.m., the network's hit drama "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" drew an average of 29.9 million total viewers, the highest-rated and most-watched episode of the show's history.

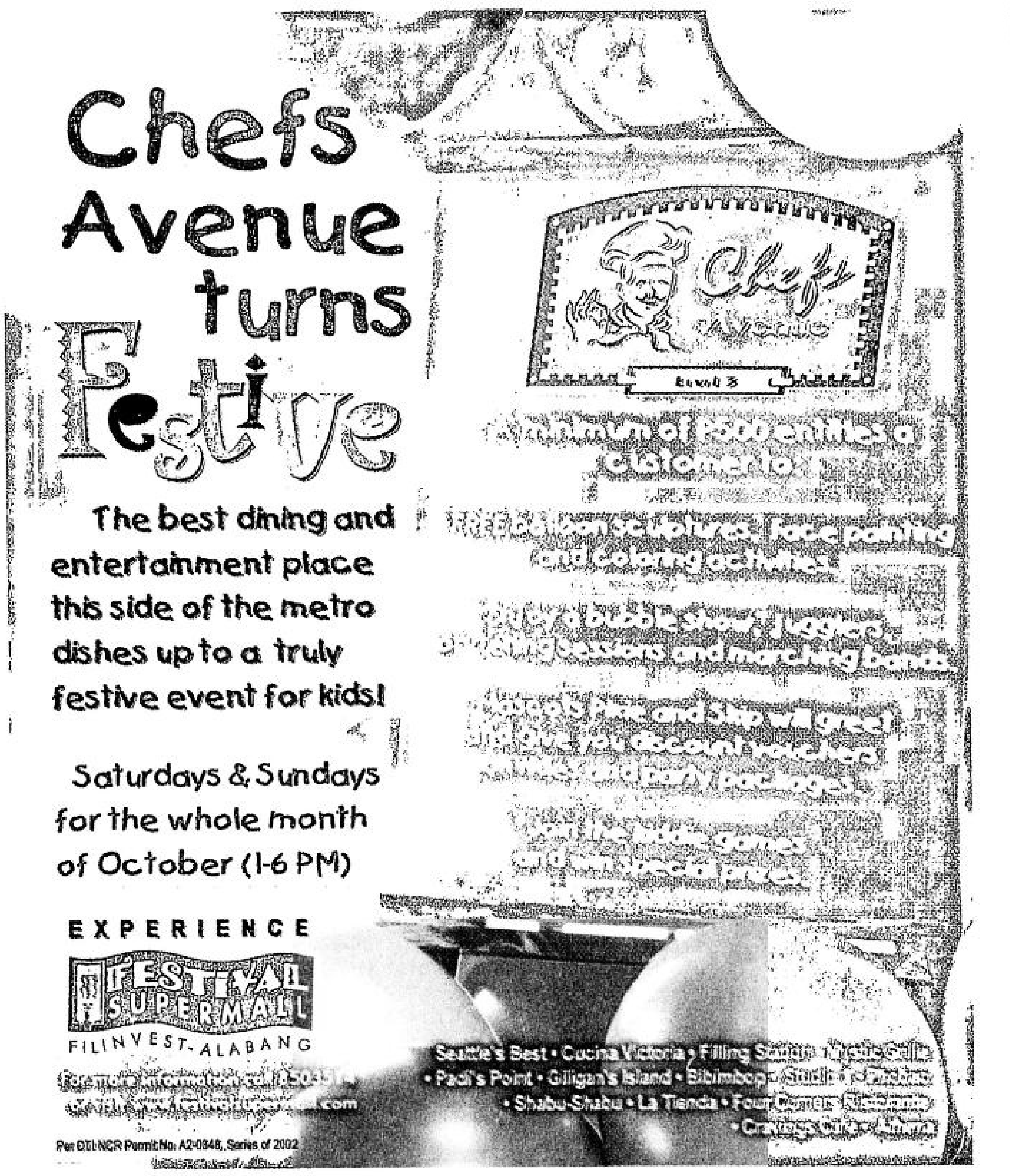
A spinoff of the show, "CSI: Miami," debuted Monday night to 23.1 million viewers, the biggest audience for the September debut of a prime-time drama since NBC launched "ER" in 1994.

And at 10 p.m., the series premiere of "Without A Trace," a show about the FBI's missing persons unit, drew 16.7 million viewers, the network's best performance in the slot with a regular, first-run show since Feb. 1994.

Fox's Thursday lineup consisted of the feature film "Rush Hour." Overall, NBC drew 24.9 million viewers for the night, followed by CBS at 22.7 million and ABC at 5.8 million.

NBC is a unit of General Electric Co. , CBS is a unit of Viacom Inc., ABC is a unit of Walt Disney Co. and Fox is a unit of News Corp. Ltd. *Reuters*


"SURVIVOR: Thailand." Premiere drew 21.4 million viewers.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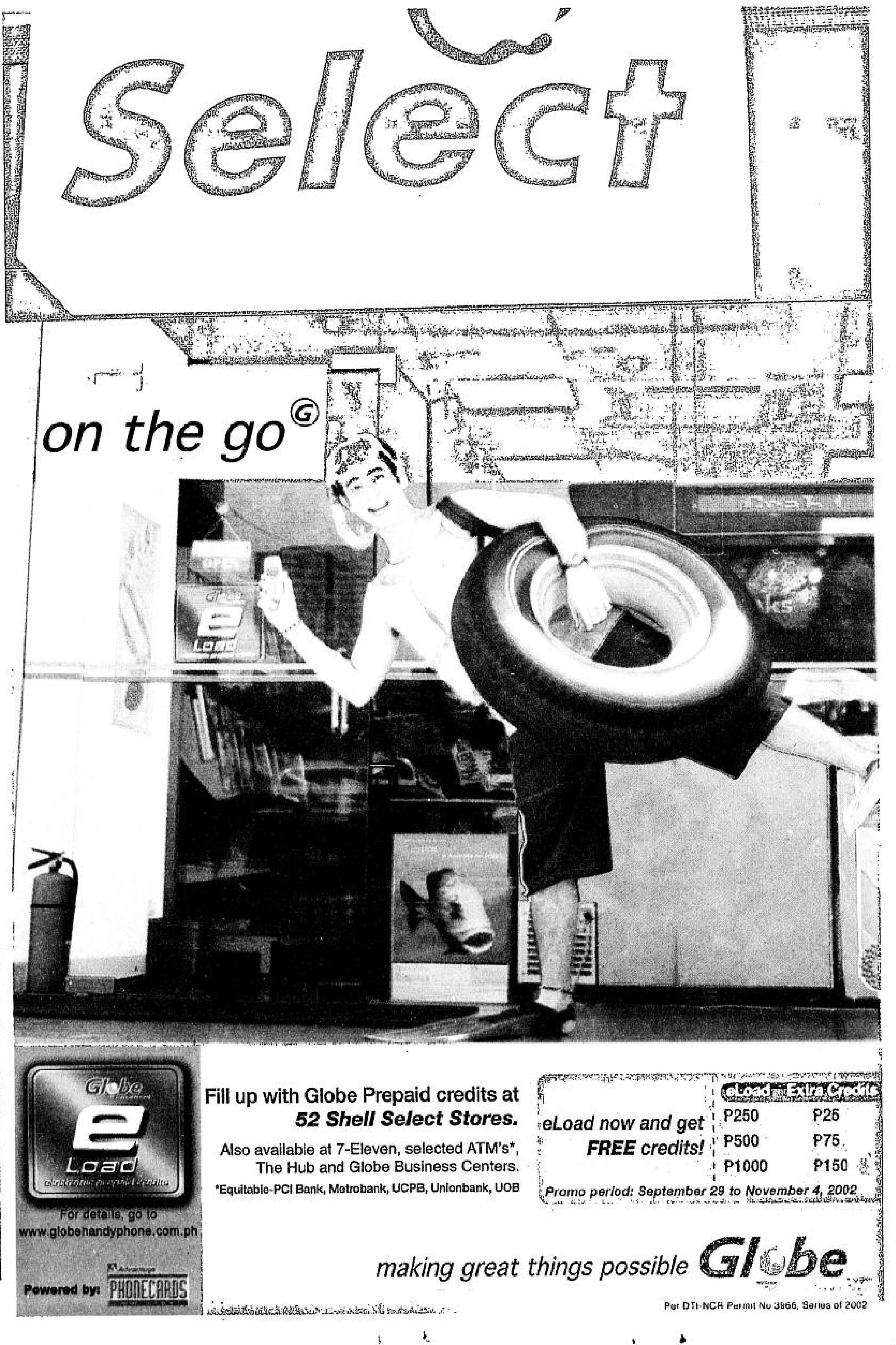
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Jackie Chan impresses his director and co-stars

By Nestor U. Torre

JACKIE Chan has been Asia's biggest box-office star for more than 20 years, delighting millions of movie fans with his unique combination of martial-arts prowess and comedy.

American fans

At first, he was content making his Asian fans happy. Little did he know, however, that some of his movies were also being noticed and enjoyed abroad, and that a small but very enthusiastic group of American fans was urging US producers to put him in a Hollywood film that would radically expand his audience.

Following scores of roles in Hong Kong cinema, Chan was introduced to US audiences in "Rumble in the Bronx." The action film's success was followed with "Rush Hour," which turned out to be even more popular with American audiences.

Chan shared stellar billing in that film with US comedian Chris Tucker, but much of the film's success was attributed to the Asian action star's exciting action routines.

Sequel

He then starred with Owen Wilson in another action-comedy hit, "Shanghai Noon," before teaming up again with Chris Tucker in the smash hit sequel, "Rush Hour 2."

He also re-teamed with Owen Wilson in "Shanghai Knights," the sequel to "Shanghai Noon." All these sequels indicate that Chan has hit on a comedy-action style that audiences want more of.

In his latest Hollywood film, "The Tuxedo," Chan plays a taxi driver who is transformed into a super-agent by a special tuxedo.

Why is Hollywood high on Jackie Chan? The fact that his movies make a lot of money naturally makes his producers ecstatic. But what about his co-stars and other film colleagues—why do they love working with Jackie?

Rookie agent

Co-star Jennifer Love Hewitt says that she agreed to appear in "The Tuxedo" as a rookie agent because Chan "is a hero of mine."

CHAN AND HEWITT. Great chemistry together.

"I had seen almost all of his movies, and thought he was adorable and funny. And the things he does on the screen are unbelievable! Now that I've worked with him, I admire him even more. I think he's the greatest person I know! He's this ball of light and energy that bounces around, making every person he meets smile."

Ritchie Coster, who plays Chan's major nemesis in the movie, is another fan of the Asian superstar. He reveals that he was inspired to take up martial arts after seeing his first Jackie Chan film when he was 12 years old.

Main reason

"I was practically raised on Jackie's movies," he shares. "He's the main reason I wanted to do the film."

As for director Kevin Donovan, he confesses, "I was enticed to direct this movie because Jackie Chan was involved. I truly believe that no other actor could have done this role, certainly not up to his level of expertise. I don't think anyone else has that kind of physical dexterity. The man is simply amazing!—And, on top of all that, he's also one of the nicest people ever to work in this industry."

Determination

Like Chan's other directors in Hollywood, Donovan was amazed by the action superstar's determination to get a stunt right. He offers this example:

"One night, we were filming a scene at a silo where the action required Jackie to leap up, do a flip, hit two guys, and do another flip. Obviously, it was a very back-breaking, arduous stunt to do, so after the fourth take, I said, 'We'd better not do this anymore; Jackie's going to hurt himself.'

"But not only did we go past four takes, Jackie made us do 37! He won't stop until a stunt is perfect, until he thinks he's done his best for a film."

Now we know why Jackie Chan keeps making one movie after another in Hollywood. Who can resist working with a guy like that?

Spacey, Tucker team up with Clinton to drum up support for AIDS programs

By Rodrique Ngowi

KIGALI, Rwanda—On his first trip to Africa, Kevin Spacey despairs at the ravages caused by AIDS—and the difficulty of getting people in the United States to pay attention.

Starring role

Fellow actor Chris Tucker, on the other hand, finds himself falling more and more in love with the continent he is visiting for the third time in less than a year as he prepares for his starring role in "Mr. President," a film about America's first black head of state.

Former President Bill Clinton—their companion in the tour—served as one of Tucker's models Wednesday as he refused the red carpet treatment Rwandan authorities wanted to lay on for him and instead plunged into a crowd of captivated patients at an AIDS health center his Clinton Foundation plans to support.

"HIV/AIDS is the single most important issue facing the world today," Spacey said, watching Clinton charm the crowd at the dusty health center in this tiny central African nation. "If we don't begin to tackle this one, then it doesn't much matter what else we try to do because we are going to be faced with a devastating plague that would wipe out generations."

Five-day tour

Clinton, Spacey and Tucker are on a five-day tour of Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Mozambique and South Africa to promote efforts to fight AIDS and encourage economic development. They head back to the United States Sunday.

Following the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, aid agencies are finding it increasingly difficult to raise money to support efforts to combat AIDS in impoverished countries.

"It has become increasingly difficult in the US to raise funds and awareness for anything outside of the fight against terrorism," Spacey said. "So, it is very important we keep people focused on the other important problems around the world."

After two previous trips to Africa this year—first with Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill and later with Secretary of State Collin Powell—Tucker said he needed to visit the continent again to learn more about it.

"In every country I go to, I just find myself falling more in love with Africa," said Tucker, who starred in the "Rush Hour" and its sequel. "I just had to come and see what more I can do to help."

Tucker is studying Clinton in action, recording him on a video camera and accompanying him when he meets and dines with African leaders, most of whom have no idea who he is.

Shooting of "Mr. President" is expected to begin soon after Tucker returns to the United States next week. The film will be released in February, he said. AP

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Pops Fernandez, fashion designer

By Edmund L. Sicam

FERNANDEZ. Major investor.

POPS Fernandez is known as Concert Queen, recording artist, TV host, movie star, Martin's ex and single parent. Now add to that long list of name tags: Fashion Designer. Yes, Pops has come out with her own line of T-shirts and fashion accessories called Pipay, which is how her close friends call her.

Hands-on participant

Although Pops has joined other business ventures as a minority partner, Pipay is one project where the singer is a major investor and intends to be a hands-on participant. That means coming up with designs and making sure they come out well on the shirts, and even negotiating with suppliers for the best terms. So far, she has not encountered any major problems, although she has had to cope with late deliveries.

Why go into a venture that is not show biz-related? Pops tells us that it was "something else I could do aside from my TV shows and concerts. Not that I've gotten bored with show business. Pipay appealed to my creative nature. I love dressing up and dressing other people."

Pops remembers mentioning her idea to ABS-CBN's Freddie Garcia who referred her to the ABS-CBN Merchandising people. "*Lumakas ang loob ko* after *in*-introduce *ako sa mga taong dapat kong makilala,*" says Pops.

Pops started with T-shirts because "it's something I'm comfortable with, something I myself can wear. Cotton shirts are ideal for our humid climate. *Hindi siya gusutin.* T-shirts are no longer just for sleeping or for informal wear. You can dress them up."

And that's what the singer has done, design T-shirts that are fashionable and in keeping with the latest styles, from preppy three-fourth sleeves to sexy spaghetti straps. "They're so flexible," says Pops. "You can wear them with black slacks and heels and you're a bit formal. Wear them with jeans and sneakers and you have that dressed-down look."

Exclusive distributors

Pipay products will be distributed exclusively by Fish outlets in the malls. Fish is owned by Ricco Ocampo and Tina Maristela-Ocampo, the same couple responsible for Anonymous and i2i eyewear. Aside from the shirts, Pipay also offers bags in various shapes and designs—bucket type with floral prints, classy oriental ones with chopstick handles, drawstring bags.

If Pipay is successful, Pops wants to include a formal line where her talents as a designer will be really tested. This is her ultimate dream.

Pops had plans of taking up Fine Arts in college but she got sidetracked when she joined show business. Now that she's single again and her kids are grown up, Pops is able to showcase her artistic talent in this business venture.

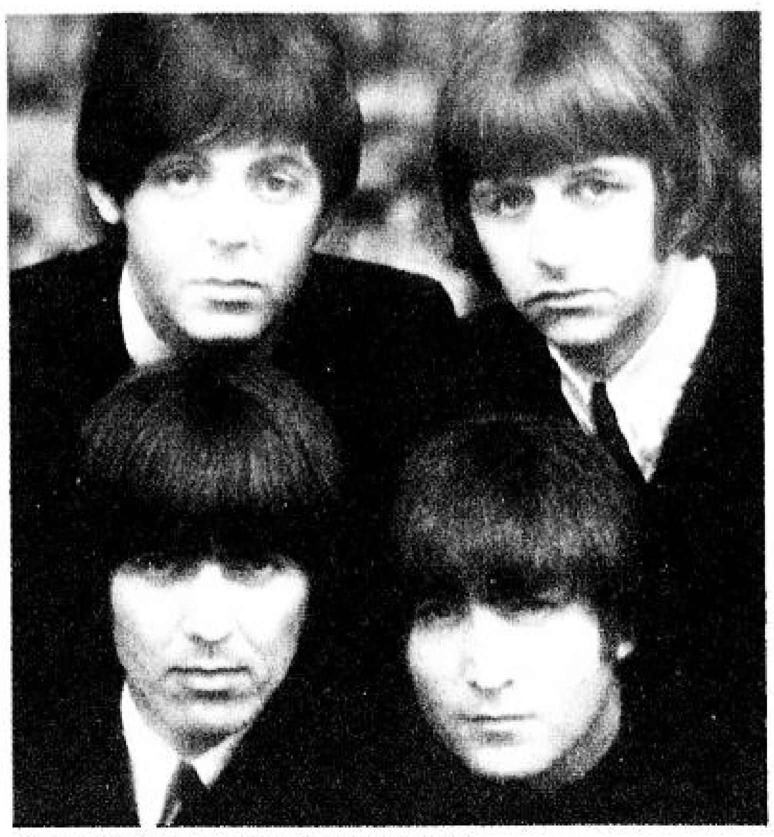
Since we were on the subject of fashion, we started to talk about the costumes she wears in her concerts. Pops tells us that female singers are expected to have several costume changes whenever they perform in a solo concert. "I envy the male singers who can get away with minimal costume changes," she sighs.

Like other singers, Pops wears her concert costumes only once, so her closets are overflowing. We tell her that she can open a Pops Fernandez museum of costumes!

Home movies featuring Bob Dylan, Beatles released after decades

By Scott Bauer

LINCOLN, Nebraska—Home movies aren't supposed to be this cool: footage of Bob Dylan goofing around at Hamlet's castle. The Beatles taking the stage in 1964.



BEATLES. Shown taking the stage in 1964.

8 mm images

But for more than 30 years, drummer 'Mickey Jones had those and other 8mm images sitting in his garage collecting dust. He says he never gave it much thought. Now he is releasing them for the first time.

"I just took my home movie camera to kind of document my trip going around the world," Jones said. "It adds a little bit more texture to the world of Bob Dylan photographs."

Jones, 61, took the movies during his career as a drummer, most famously backing Dylan during his 1966 world tour. It was on that tour that Dylan played electric rock for the first time, shocking many fans who saw it as selling out. (The band's regular drummer, Levon Helm, apparently got sick of being booed during the US leg of the tour and dropped out.)

Historian C.P. Lee of the University of Salford in Manchester, England, said Jones' films offer a fresh window on a cataclysmic period in both Dylan's career and rock music.

"To my way of thinking, it's better than writing a diary," said Lee, who has written books about Dylan on film and the 1966 tour. "If you've got a diary, you mediate it. If you've got a camera, it just shows what it shows."

Private tour

The silent, full-color tapes include a dark-sunglass-wearing Dylan getting a private tour of Hamlet's castle in Denmark, members of his band goofing off between gigs, and fans waiting outside hotels for a glimpse of their hero.

In the past decade there has been a greater demand for rare footage, insider documentation and other rock 'n' roll collectors items, said Pete Howard, a Dylan historian, and editor and publisher of ICE Magazine.

DYLAN. His drummer chronicled his world tour.

"The whole landscape for releasing outtakes has moved into the mainstream," Howard said. "Ten years ago this would have been a freaky release."

Dylan was unaware of the project and did not participate in it, said his spokesman Elliott Mintz.

"He just has nothing to say about the project," Mintz said.

The Jones tapes show Dylan and his band—who would later become The Band—on stage, in hotel rooms, taxis and buses, and walking the streets of Europe.

Infamous performance

Dylan's concerts in the spring of 1966 came on the heels of his infamous performance at the Newport Folk Festival in the summer of 1965, the first time he plugged in. By going electric, Dylan was largely abandoning the formula that had propelled him to fame.

Jones, now a TV and film actor living in California, offers a first-hand account in voiceover of the booing, slow hand-clapping and foot-stomping that greeted Dylan each night from Hawaii to London.

The drama reached a high point in Manchester, where an enraged audience member shouted "Judas!" at Dylan. The band responded with an in-your-face version of "Like a Rolling Stone," highlighted by Jones' cannon-fire-like drumming.

The film images—along with Jones' commentary on such things as haggling with Dylan over pay—are important and unprecedented pop culture documents, Howard said. *AP*

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ADVT.

Yam Laranas directs 'Hibla' for Viva Films

By Edmund L. Sicam

HE formalized Rica Peralejo's entry in the bold genre with "Balahibong Pusa." That movie was a hit and enabled him to wrangle a second project, "Radyo." Now, Yam Laranas works once more with Rica and the newest sexy star from Viva, Maui Taylor, in "Hibla." It's not as dark as "Balahibong Pusa," he claims, because it has a different mood. Amorsolo paintings are his inspiration here, and the film is shot entirely in the province.

Best friends

Rica and Maui play province mates who have been best friends since they were children. Maui's family moves away from the province but she comes back with her father (Ricky Davao) after 10 years because her mother has left them. So now, Rica is the *probinsyana* and Maui the city girl. Rica has a boyfriend, (played by "Bubble Gang's" Antonio Aquitana), and he is rather frustrated because Rica just won't give in to his sexual advances.

Maui, on the other hand, is a city girl bored out of her mind in the province. The undressing in this movie takes place when the bored city girl is able to seduce the frustrated country boy. Rica catches them, is devastated, and runs to Ricky for comfort. There's an attraction, but it's not perverted—it's more of fondness on Ricky's part, and him noticing that the little girl he used to know is all grown up now. She's weak, Ricky wants to comfort her—and they end up in bed together.

Says Laranas, "*Iba ang* mood, *e . . . kasi* I have very good writers—Edgar Ilao and Quark Henares. I saw a rough cut of 'Gamitan,' and I was looking for a writer like Quark to help me. *Usap-usap kaming lahat, sabi nila,* something different. *Kaya lang ang hirap umalis sa* track *ng kailangang biglang maghubad lang.* But surprisingly, with very good actors, I was able to do it."

Commercialism

Why does he think producers want to keep doing these types of movies? "First of all, I have no qualms about commercialism at all," Laranas stresses. "Because I really love to have an audience. *Kaya lang,* very unfortunate *lang,* they've branded me a bold director because the first movie I made was bold. I think to answer it directly, it's still a formula. You show skin, instant attraction *na kaagad yun sa* market. *Maganda rin* to play with the genre *na* erotica. *Maganda rin laruin ang* psyche *ng* Pinoy."

Perhaps it's because good directors are making well-made films with nudity nowadays. The only problem directors run into is the MTRCB. "Actually, *naisip ko na yan.* When we shoot movies, we censor ourselves *na.* And we have a story to tell—it's not a skin flick, there's a story there. Unfortunately, some members of the board don't see it that way.

Popular genre

"I get uncomfortable doing bold movies, because I don't like the idea of seeing naked people, and giving them instructions to do this or that. *Kaya lang,* once you get into the story, *nawawala yung ganun.* I hope they understand that. That this genre is popular and we are trying to abide by their guidelines as much as we can."

Laranas defends his movie: "I have nudity, but it's an *hommage* to Amorsolo. And I don't want my actors to look *bastusin. Kahit si* Maui *nasa sa* sex scene, *nafi*-feel *mo pa rin ang pagkabata niya.* That's why you sympathize with her character."

'I have no qualms about commercialism, because I really love to have an audience. But they've branded me a bold director because the first movie I made was bold'

LARANAS. His latest film co-stars Rica Peralejo and Maui Taylor.

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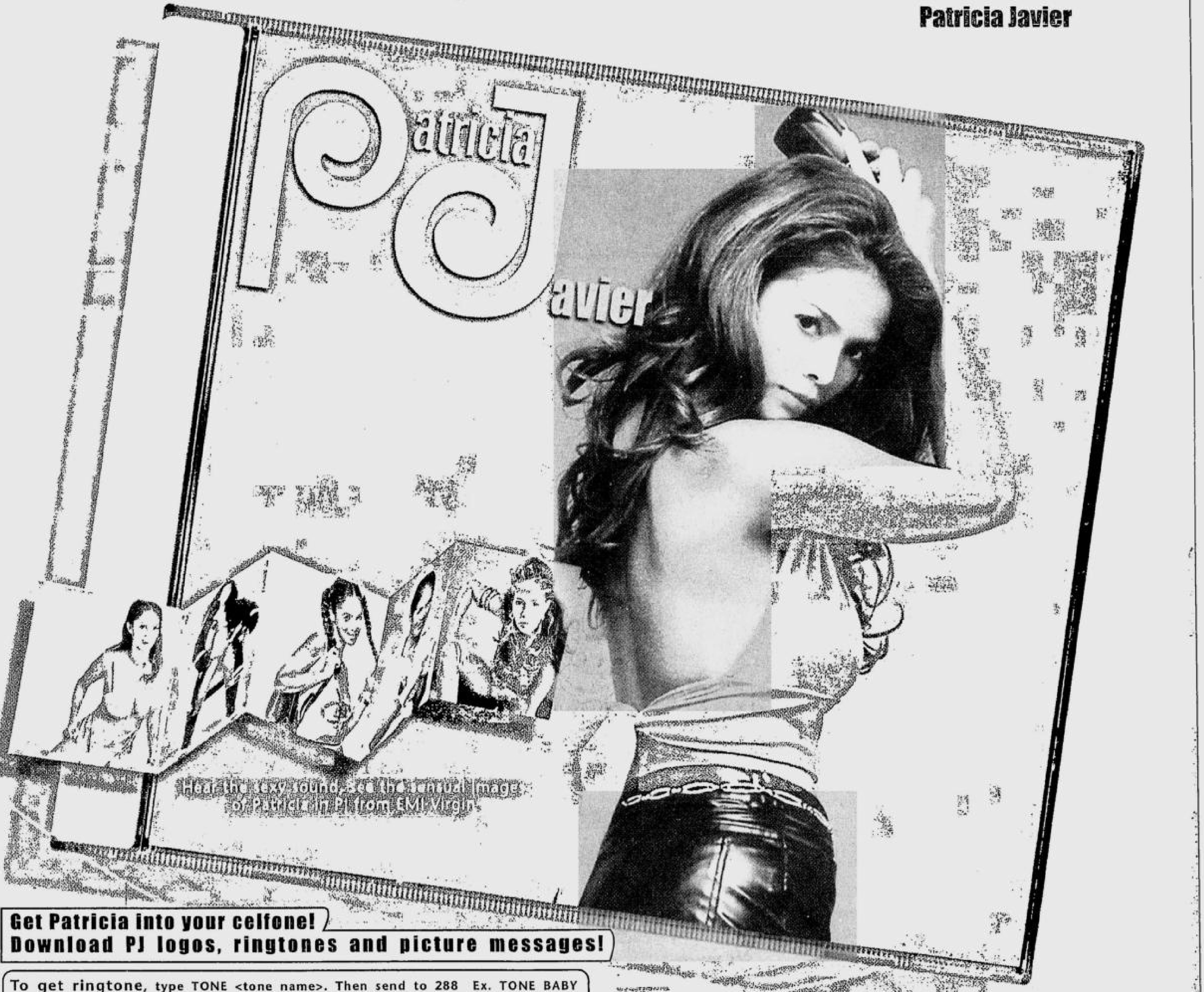
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SATURDAY Special

Tom Hanks lines up two new roles

HANKS. Will star in a remake of "Ladykillers."

LOS ANGELES—Oscar-winning Hollywood star Tom Hanks has signed up for two high-profile movie roles, which will take him on a train trip to the freezing reaches of the North Pole and then see him play a dashing thief, industry sources said Wednesday.

Magical train

Double best actor Oscar laureate Hanks, 46, will play the conductor of a magical train in "Polar Express."

Its the story of a boy whose belief in Santa Claus results in a fantasy trip to the North Pole, due for release in 2004, industry bible Daily Variety said.

Popular book

The film—adapted from a popular book by Chris Van Allsburg—is likely to begin shooting in February. It will be directed by Robert Zemeckis and is scheduled for a Christmas holiday release, the daily said.

Following that project, the star of "Cast Away" and "Forrest Gump" is expected to move on to a remake of the 1955 black comedy "Ladykillers," an Ealing comedy that originally starred Alec Guinness and Peter Sellers.

Comedy masters

In that picture, to be directed by comedy masters Joel and Ethan Coen, he has been tapped to play one of a band of thieves who rent rooms from an unsuspecting southern American landlady in order to hide out from the law.

Lawyer

Hanks also starred in the hit World War II saga "Saving Private Ryan" and took the role of a lawyer who contracts AIDS in the 1993 film "Philadelphia," for which he won one of his two best actor Academy Awards. *AFP*

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Hollywood films made in the Philippines remembered

POWER. Filipinas swooned in the presence of one of the cinema's handsomest actors.

By Behn Cervantes

SINCE I was a film buff early on, I am quite aware that films need not be shot where their scripts locate them. In fact, before "shooting on location" became the standard, the large back studios of MGM, Warner Brothers, RKO and Universal International were regularly transformed into ancestral homes, lush African jungles, exotic Arabian lands or dilapidated slums.

Production designers

They could also become South American mountain villages, European cities, the French Riviera, and whatever else the ingenious production designers wanted to make.

Therefore, I knew that Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland were not really in Robin Hood's Sherwood Forest, or that Ava Gardner was not singing Jerome Kern's song on the Mississippi River, or Vivien Leigh was not living in a Southern mansion named Tara.

I had seen movies like "Back To Bataan" and knew that it was shot nowhere near that historic province, no matter if some extras spoke Tagalog. That "Philippine" location was yet another creation of a production designer who had done ample research.

Excited

Therefore, Manila was really excited when it was confirmed that Hollywood would shoot a movie in the Philippines. With screen idol Tyrone Power yet! Little did we know he had slipped down the box-office ladder in competitive Hollywood. And little did the producers realize that the films he made before the Pacific war were still doing well in the Philippines.

His arrival in Manila caused a near riot. Tyrone Power fans crowded the airport and gave the screen idol quite a reception. This public adulation quickly bolstered Power's image with his producers, who were duly impressed by his durable appeal to his Philippine fans.

He and his wife, Linda Christian, a sexy starlet, French co-star Micheline Presle (sometimes spelled Prelle), comedian Tom Ewell (who later appeared as the hapless husband in "The Seven Year Itch" with Marilyn Monroe) and director Fritz Lang were wined and dined by Manila's 400. They were welcomed in Malacañang Palace by President Elpidio Quirino and treated like royalty everywhere they went.

Glittering parties

The Hollywood couple was feted with glittering parties and chaperoned to different events by socialite Chona Recto Ysmael (later Kasten) and her husband. Pre-war Carnival Queen Conchita Sunico was among the select people who entertained the handsome actor remembered as Zorro, the *torero* in "Blood and Sand," as well as "The Black Swan."

He was one of the cinema's handsomest actors, so Filipinas swooned in his presence, while the men generally felt intimidated. Nevertheless, old-rich Manila grandly put its best foot forward for the cast and crew of "An American Guerilla in the Philippines."

There was also great excitement among local film actors. Major Philippine stars hoped for a role in the movie and, perchance a chance at a Hollywood career. Talented Rosa del Rosario, the favorite leading lady of Fernando Poe, and the original screen Darna, appeared in one sequence, where she was frightened by the entry of Japanese soldiers while fetching water from an artesian well. Erlinda Cortez, one of the most respected dramatic actresses of the local industry was in another sequence.

Radio announcer

Alas, there were few roles worthy of our many talents. It was radio announcer Cris de Vera as a Japanese officer who got the biggest role among the Filipino actors.

Word of the competence of the local film technicians, the ever-ready tropical sun and the natives' facility with the English language spread in Hollywood. Furthermore, dollar-conscious producers could avail of cheap but good-natured labor in the Philippines. In a short time, a Hollywood invasion of sorts commenced. It became especially active in '60s.

George Montgomery, a film hunk best known as the ex-husband of singer Dinah Shore, came to shoot "Huk" with the ethereally beautiful Mona Lisa at the Pampanga Sugar Mills (Pasumil) in Del Carmen, Pampanga. That beautiful sugar central and compound had rivers, streams, a golf course, sugarcane fields by the mile, green forests, and peace and quiet, as well as the proud Mt. Arayat in the background.

Lahar

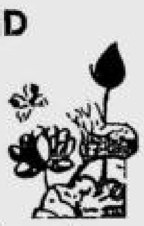
It remained photogenic until the Martial Law years, when it was taken over by the Marcos regime. Most of it was then buried by lahar in 1991.

Montgomery took advantage of the many actors available in the different local studios, ever eager for the Yankee dollar and Hollywood exposure. The US production also had the cooperation of the whole sugar central, whose officials made their facilities and people available for cinematic purposes. This was a Hollywood film with the distinction that it was "Made in the Philippines," after all.

(To be concluded)

Words to live by

LOTUS POND



R. Valencia and S. Bismark

WE don't need a lot of words to express the truth. Great wisdom can be contained in simple phrases and very basic vocabulary.

Here are some ancient Chinese sayings collected by Ruthanne Lum McCunn in the book "Chinese Proverbs," along with our personal commentary in parentheses:

Genuine happiness

Do not climb a tree to look for fish. (Do not look for genuine happiness and lasting fulfillment in the ever-changing worldly dimension. Seek the imperishable in the permanent spiritual realm.)

Water can drip through stone. (Humility and kindness can enter even the hardest hearts of men.)

A good friend shields you from the storm. (Our Best Friend, the Supreme Being, is the greatest shelter against all storms.)

Better to make a net than to yearn for fish at the edge of a pond. (True happiness and wisdom can be attained by those who take steps to achieve it, and never by those who are lazy and simply talk about it.)

A good bee never takes pollen from a fallen flower. (A good student does not seek wisdom from an unenlightened teacher, nor does a good citizen seek guidance from a rotten leader.)

Opposite natures

Tigers and deer do not walk together. (Persons of opposite natures do not bond together. Materialists do not enjoy the company of spiritualists who avoid being dragged down by the influence of the materially obsessed.)

You cannot satisfy hunger by drawing a cake. (If you want satisfaction in life, seek the nourishment that fills the soul, not material glory and fame.)

Genuine gold fears no fire. (Truly successful people have a spiritual foundation that can withstand all challenges. They have gone

WORDS E6

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Listeners cite their favorite DJs

By Noelani Torre

DISC jockeys have never gone out of fashion. Despite the existence of television, the internet and their viewable brothers and sisters, the video jockeys, radio DJs continue to hold and attract listeners. Maybe it's because they're multifunctional—DJs aren't just music announcers, they're also commentators, comedians, guidance counselors, etc.

Not all DJs are the same, of course, and some we prefer more than others. So we asked some avid listeners to tell us whose voice they'd rather bend their ears to. Their responses:

Humor

"Zach and Joey of NU 107. Their show is in the morning so I can catch a part of it before going to class. They have this breakfast talk where they discuss all kinds of topics and issues, and since Zach and Joey are male and female respectively, there's humor when they're debating with each other. They're never boring. Even if you don't agree with what they're saying, you don't get irritated because they don't push it.

"They know a lot about music personalities. *Hirit sila nang hirit.* They play good music, alternatives to rock. They make good choices, they know how to sequence. Not like other DJs who play the same songs over and over again. They have good voices. *Malakas ang dating ng* character *sa boses nila.* It's like their voices embody their personalities. And they're never afraid to say what they want to say."—*Marlon Paul Barredo, Batangas.*

CHICO AND DELAMAR. They click becasue they have rapport.

Naughty

"King DJ Logan of Magic 89.9. *May pagka-bastos siya pero sa nakakatuwang paraan. 'Pag narinig mo siya, matatawa ka, i-di-*disregard *mo yung* fact *na bastos na pala yung sinasabi niya.* He even admits on-air that he really is *bastos* and he doesn't force listeners to listen to him. *Kung ayaw nila, e di lipat sila ng istasyon.*

"*Ang* show *niyang* click *na* click *ay yung* 'Radio Tabloid.' *Dito kinukuwento ng mga* listeners *yung mga* sexcapades *nila. Nakakatawa kasi* it's always full of barroom jokes. *Mahilig din siyang mag-*spoof *ng kung anu-ano at kung sinu-sino*—Star Wars, si Kris Aquino, etc.

"He's very good at *panggagago. Di siya tulad ng ibang* DJs *na puro* music *lang o masyadong seryoso. Yung ginagawa niya di tulad ng* conventional na *pang-di-*DJ. *Nagbibigay siya ng mga* trivia *tungkol sa* singer *o* band. *Ginagawa din yan ng ibang* DJs *pero iba ang* delivery *niya. Pang-asar*, sarcastic.

"He's the funniest DJ ever. And he's very frank. *Sinasabi niya kung ano ang gusto niyang sabihin kahit di masyadong maganda. May naaabangan tuloy akong kakaiba* every night."—*Olivia D. Ng, Davao City.*

Sexy voice

"DJ Logan. He's smart *at minsan may pagka-*sarcastic. He has a cool, sexy voice. He's also good with kids. He has a show with kid DJs every Saturday and he knows how to interact with them.

"He can get you into a conversation that sounds good and makes you sound good. He easily detects slip-ups, especially those made by listeners. He's confident and 'he's not like other DJs *na puro* 'yeah, yeah' *'pag may* listener *na kausap. Inaasar pa nga niya ang ibang* DJs.

"He's very good at reading letters. *Maririnig mo sa* voice *niya ang lahat*—expression, drama-drama effect, etc. *Maganda din siyang tumawa.* Very engaging, *nakakatuwa.*"—*Cielo Joy Tapiru, Diliman.*

Partnership

"Chico and Delamar, RX 93. They have a morning show but I'd prefer them to be midnight companions because they're very rowdy. *Hindi sila gaanong mapanglait at hindi rin sila katulad ng ibang* DJs *na napakacoño. Nakasanayan ko na ang* partnership *nila,* they're like my staple food already.

"Efficient *ang paggamit nila ng* musical terms, but most of the time, they don't really talk about the music itself but about themselves or other people. I like their Chix-max segment. *Di nila gaanong gamay ang Filipino pero* compared with other DJs, *mas* proficient *sila. Matagal na sila* on the air and they make you more of a friend than a listener, though you know it's just part of the show."—*Randel Urbano, Isabela.*

Pros and cons

"Chico and Delamar, because I like and appreciate their views. They show you that they're not biased for or against an idea or issue. They always show the two sides of the problem, the pros and cons.

"They always sound happy. I can imagine them in their booth, just laughing around, enjoying everything. They click because they have rapport. You don't hear any dead air when you listen to them.

"I also like their surveys, like the one about the things you'd say before you jump out of a plane. They're funny!"—*Ian Bajada, Quezon City.*

More good films showing this month

By Nestor U. Torre

OF the 30-plus movies showing in the next few weeks, which productions should film buffs watch out for? Some suggestions:

As far as Filipino movies go, "Mga Munting Tinig," "Nine Mornings" and "Paraisong Parisukat" are particularly viewable.

New teacher

"Mga Munting Tinig" is about a new teacher (Alessandra De Rossi) who has to contend with a small community's negative thinking in her wish to pull her students out of the materially- and intellectually-impoverished situation they're in.

"Nine Mornings" focuses on a jaded young man (Piolo Pascual) who changes for the better when he is required to hear dawn mass for nine days in order to get his inheritance.

And "Paraisong Parisukat" is the remake of Orlando Nadres' play and film script about a salesgirl (Joyce Jimenez) who finds herself in a dead-end job and life.

Among the foreign film releases, "O" stands out because it's a youthful update on William Shakespeare's "Othello." It stars Mekhi Phifer, Julia Stiles and Josh Hartnett.

Complex case

"Blood Work," Clint Eastwood's latest film, has him playing a criminal investigator who cracks a particularly complex case that later turns out to have elements that come to bear on his own life.

"Mr. Deeds" is a new version of "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town," Frank Capra's famous film starring Gary Cooper, with Adam Sandler now playing the title role.

"In the Mood for Love" is directed by the well-regarded Chinese director, Wong Kar-Wai. It won three awards at the Cannes filmfest—Best Foreign Language Film, Best Cinematography, and Best Actor (Tony Leung).

EASTWOOD. Plays a criminal investigator in "Blood Work."

Horror movie

"Frailty" is a particularly chilling horror movie that stars Matthew McConaughey and Bill Paxton (he also directs the film).

"Road to Perdition" is a holdover film that's been playing for two weeks now, but it still bears watching for its complex look into the heart of a Mob executioner who dares to go against his revered boss in order to avenge the death of his wife and younger child, and to protect his surviving son.

It is also distinguished by fine, textured performances turned in by its major players, led by Tom Hanks, Paul Newman and Jude Law.

Nine films out of 30 may not sound like much, but it's definitely better than the good-bad movie ratio we usually get. So, in the next few weeks, clear your schedule so you can go to the movies more often than is your usual wont.

Message

Just make sure you patronize movies that deserve your patronage, so you'll be sending out a strong message to producers and movie distributors that the country's film buffs are not just ready, but eager to patronize quality movies.

If we do this consistently, we'll be boosting our chances of seeing an even greater number of quality films in movie seasons to come. In that kind of film scenario, everybody wins!

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Donita Rose and Piolo Pascual star in 'Nine Mornings'

PIOLO and Donita first worked together in "That's Entertainment"—a long time ago.

By Gloria P. Sicam

"NINE Mornings" stars Donita Rose and Piolo Pascual. Talk about an early Christmas present!

Early Christmas present

Add to that a refreshing story without the usual nudity and love scenes, and you have the first Christmas date movie of the season.

Piolo plays Gene Ynfante, a man who, after losing his girlfriend in an accident, has become a cynical, obsessive-compulsive workaholic whose life revolves around sex and money. He is the sole heir to his dead grandmother's fortune, but there's a catch—he has to complete all nine morning masses of Christmas.

Among all Filipino traditions, Gene hates this one the most, but for his inheritance, he drags himself out of bed to attend morning mass. There he meets Elise (Donita Rose), a pre-school teacher at an orphanage who's nursing a broken heart. How they affect each other's lives is what the movie is all about.

Donita and Piolo first worked together in "That's Entertainment"—a long time ago. But back then, Donita knew Piolo as PJ. He was a lot thinner than, and really shy. When Donita signed up for this movie, she didn't realize that PJ from "That's Entertainment" was the same person as Piolo Pascual. Funnier still, Donita narrates that her best friend Mo Twister would always refer to Piolo as "Papa Piolo," as some kind of barometer for being good-looking.

So all throughout the making of the movie, Donita called Piolo "Papa Piolo." Donita takes note of how different they both are now, since their "That's Entertainment" days: "PJ's become a real man. Back then, we were all just airheads. We've become real adults!"

Pretty face

And what does Piolo think of Donita now? "Donita is sure of what she wants. And she's very devoted to her work. Besides having such a pretty face, she's very religious. She's a superstar but she's very down-to-earth."

Donita says that this is the first time she's done a movie where her leading man is close to her age. And the result is "we have more chemistry, because we can relate to each other more..."

Piolo says he relates to his character because he feels like his life has also undergone changes. "For my birthday, Donita gave me a bible. And we go to services together. Donita has changed me a lot. I'm being changed by my faith as well. What happened to my character is happening to me, too."

Donita sees a lot of qualities in Elise that she shares: "I really love children. I've always been a 'mother' to my younger siblings. Also, my mother is a schoolteacher as well."

Messages

They both say that the movie is more than just a love story, there are a lot of messages that we can pick up from the characters in the movie.

"Elise's character doesn't really preach her beliefs, but it's more of her life's example. It's through her whole attitude, she has compassion for other people. All she has to do is show people what true love is, and people will be affected. It can really works miracles in the lives of other people."

Says Piolo, "You are never alone. God knows when He will be able to change you. And you will be caught off-guard when it happens in your life!"

Writers as winners and losers in Dennis Brown's 'Shoptalk'

By Noelani Torre

WRITERS—especially scriptwriters—are largely unknown beings. When people watch a movie, the names they look for are those of the actors and the director. It is rare to have a movie publicized or remembered as being written by such and such a writer. One of the few screenwriters to get star billing is William Goldman.

Intuitive

Goldman is one of Hollywood's most respected and admired screenwriters. He has been writing for the screen for almost 40 years, and producer Joe Roth, Walt Disney studios' former chairman, has declared him to be "the most observant, knowledgeable and intuitive screenwriter in the business today."

Goldman also pursues a career as a novelist. In fact he considers himself a novelist who just happens to write screenplays once in a while.

"His novel 'Marathon Man,'" says publishing firm Random House, "has made him very famous in dentists' offices around the world." He also wrote the best-selling "Tinsel" and an earlier work, "Soldier in the Rain," which was eventually turned into a movie that signaled his future involvement in film. His non-fiction books include "The Season: A Candid Look at Broadway" and "Adventures in the Screen Trade," both imbued with honesty and his signature caustic wit.

Compilation

In Dennis Brown's "Shoptalk" (Newmarket Press), a compilation of interviews with writers for stage and film, Goldman is included in the chapter entitled "Winners and Losers." He's a "winner," of course, but he had a different view of it:

"In terms of the Hollywood hierarchy, I suppose I have more power than a makeup man," he said. "But in terms of actual power, of what I call go-power, the muscle, being able to make something happen, a screenwriter is only very, very occasionally the muscle."

"Screenwriting is a world unto its own, with different values," he explained. "One of the things that I like to make very clear is, you must never confuse the good, the true, and the beautiful with successful screenwriting. Good and bad is not important in the movie business. All that's important is successful screenwriting.

"Lots of marvelous movies fail at the box office, and lots of bad films are very successful. And a lot of people get mixed up, because they think that because they've had a success, they also have quality."

That was his statement years ago and it has remained true—which is one of the reasons why we appreciate Brown's book of collected interviews.

Paired

Brown's interview with William Goldman is paired with his interview with Mary Mercier, the "loser" in "Winners and Losers." Her story is one of the most poignant in the book. Goldman supported her first and last Broadway play, "Johnny No-Trump," in his book "Season" and that's one of the reasons why they were paired in one chapter.

"Mary Mercier doesn't write plays anymore," wrote Brown, "and that's a shame. But she wrote one and it's worth remembering." That play, "Johnny No-Trump" opened and closed in one night. Clive Barnes, then drama critic of The New York Times, wrote a negative review of the play and the producers got scared and withdrew it, just like that, despite glowing reviews from other critics.

"I think it was just the fact that the play came in so quietly," said Goldman when asked to comment. "It had no power connected with it . . . That same play, word for word, wouldn't have been any better if it had come in as a David Merrick production, with Elia Kazan direction, and a star. But it's my contention that if the play had come in with power,

WINNERS/ E7

GOLDMAN. Has been writing screenplays for almost 40 years.

portrait #3 G

Sarandon views older roles fondly

By David Germain

SARANDON. Her latest batch of moms could hardly be more different.

TORONTO—Actresses often bristle that as they age, they can only find film roles as somebody's mother.

Opportunity

Susan Sarandon views movie motherhood as an opportunity, so long as she finds uncommon moms to play, such as those in her three new films, "Igby Goes Down," "The Banger Sisters" and "Moonlight Mile," which hit theaters three weekends in a row.

While raising her own three children and taking on non-maternal roles in such films as "Dead Man Walking" and "The Client," Sarandon has managed nicely, playing a range of mothers in "Little Women," "Lorenzo's Oil," "Stepmom" and "Anywhere But Here."

"That's how I got to work so much. I did all those mother parts no one else wanted," Sarandon, who turns 56 this month, said in a recent interview.

"Everybody's got one, and there are different kinds of mothers. But it was an unwritten stigma that once you played a mother, you lost your sexuality. Therefore, you lost the ability to be in a lot more leads. I'm sure there are people who still feel that. But parenting is a dynamic that has so many variables. It's a very, very rich area. So why would you want to rule out those roles?"

Overbearing

Sarandon's latest batch of moms could hardly be more different. In the black comedy "Igby," she plays an overbearing, pill-popping mother who's too self-absorbed to form any real emotional connection with her troublesome teenage son.

In the goofy "Banger Sisters," Sarandon is a prissy, uptight mother whose hidden past as a fast-and-easy rock groupie resurfaces when her old party pal (Goldie Hawn) comes calling. (Sarandon's oldest child, Eva Amurri, plays one of her character's teenage daughters.)

In the comic drama "Moonlight Mile," Sarandon plays a former boozehound demonstrating grief over her daughter's murder with sarcasm, blunt honesty and unchecked anger, in contrast to the denial of her husband (Dustin Hoffman) or the dutiful empathy of her daughter's fiance (Jake Gyllenhaal).

Having three films opening on consecutive weekends had Sarandon worried about overexposure, though "Moonlight Mile" and "Igby Goes Down" are gradually expanding from limited debuts while "The Banger Sisters" premiered in nationwide release.

"I'm really anxious to see what's going to happen," Sarandon said. "They're all very different. The only thing they have in common is me, and I'm very different in all of them. In theory, it shouldn't make a difference."

Bonanza

Just as she's defied convention with a bonanza of unusual maternal roles, Sarandon has plotted an atypical career arc, building a solid body of work from 1970 to the late 1980s before shooting to superstardom with "Bull Durham" and "Thelma & Louise" in her 40s, an age when most actresses' careers are waning.

"What Susan is, is proof that people want to go see and will go see films that have wom-

SARANDON/E6

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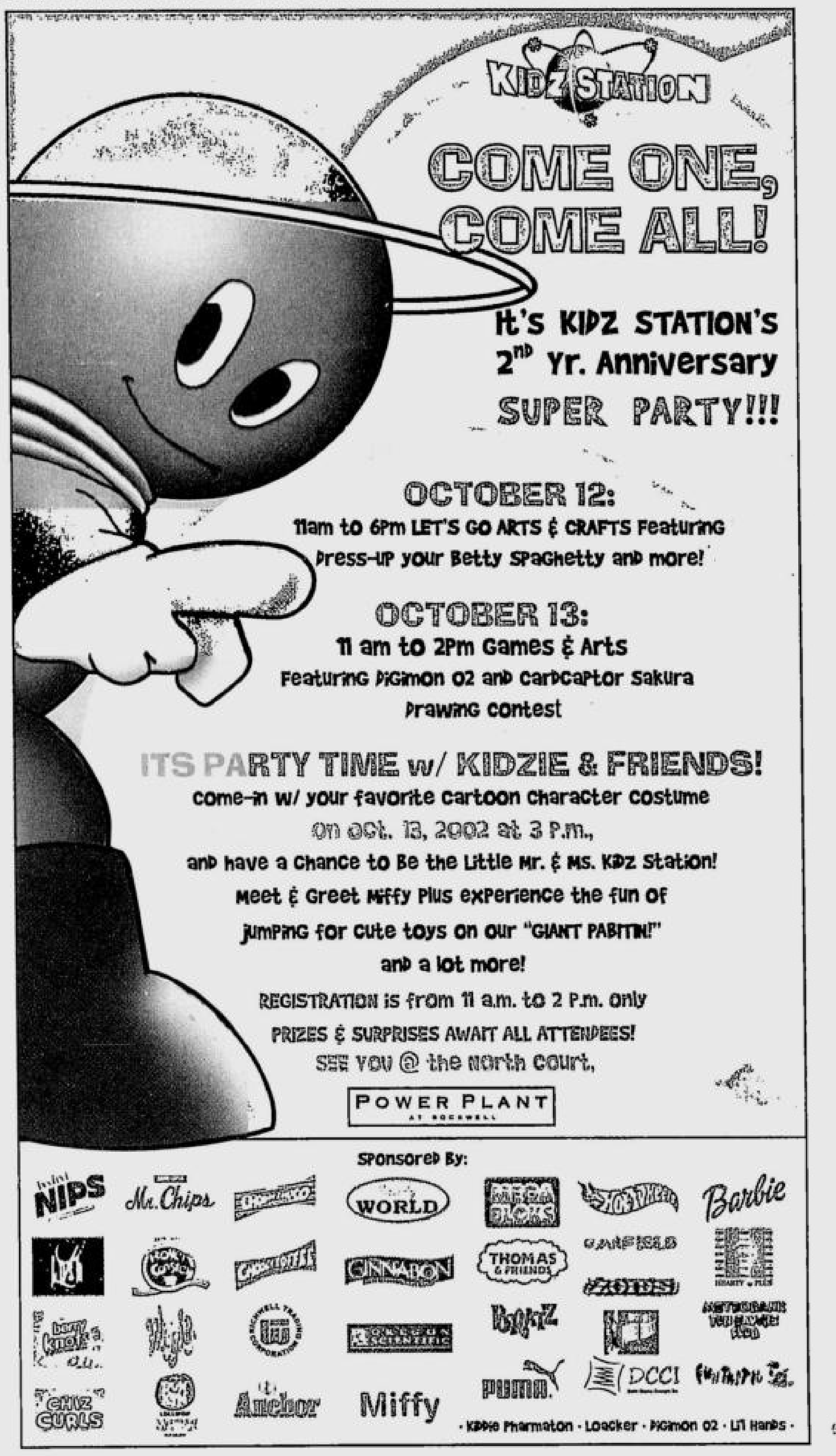
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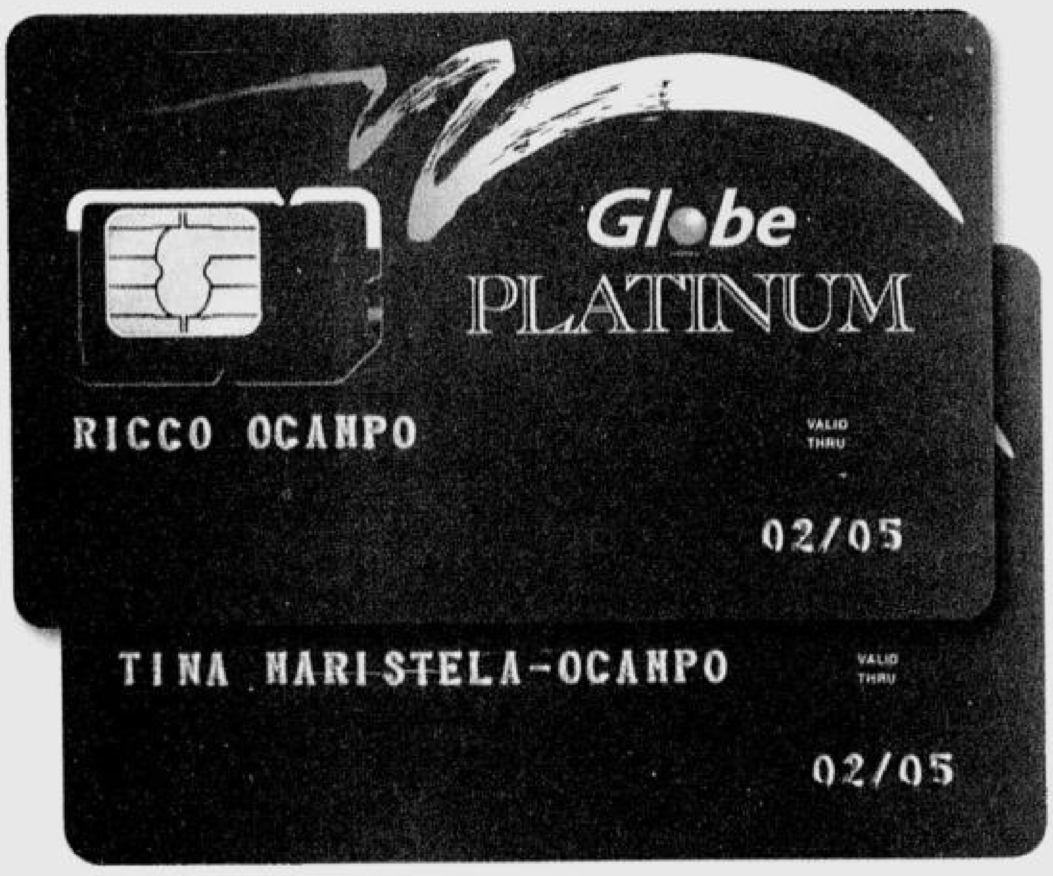

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Sarandon views older roles fondly

From page E5

en who aren't 18," said "Moonlight Mile" co-star Ellen Pompeo. "That women get more interesting as they get older."

Sarandon made her film debut in "Joe," 1970's provocative tale of bigotry and generational conflict, and worked steadily in television and movies for the next decade, including the cult hit "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" in 1975.

"Atlantic City" in 1980 brought Sarandon her first of five Academy Award nominations. After a run of more obscure films, she co-starred in "The Witches of Eastwick" in 1987 and a year later broke out as the sexually confident devotee of a hapless ballclub in "Bull Durham."

Sarandon lives in New York City with "Bull Durham" co-star Tim Robbins, who directed her to a best-actress Oscar in 1995's "Dead Man Walking." Besides Eva, her daughter with Italian director Franco Amurri, Sarandon has two children with Robbins.

HOFFMAN. Sarandon describes him as "very cuddly."

Other nominations

The actress' other Oscar nominations were for "Thelma & Louise," "Lorenzo's Oil" and "The Client." Sarandon's frank, funny performance in "Moonlight Mile" could earn her a supporting-actress nomination.

Though they had known each other only casually before "Moonlight Mile," Sarandon and Hoffman fell into an easy rapport as an old married couple. Their scenes are filled with little touches and gestures that feel like the genuine product of years of familiarity.

"He's not somebody that made me defensive. He's very open, and I don't think he was threatened by me, so we didn't have to do that dance. We didn't have to settle in," Sarandon said. "He didn't spray his territory, and I didn't have to find some way to get in there. He's very cuddly, and we just had a basis of respect. There's no accounting for it. He's a good family man, and I'm a family person, so that probably bonded us somehow."

Of the three new roles, her "Moonlight Mile" character, JoJo, comes closest to her own parenting style, though the mom of "The Banger Sisters" might be the more ideal mother from a textbook standpoint, trying to do all the right things by her children, Sarandon said.

Reformed alcoholic

"I personally would rather err on the side of JoJo, who's a little bohemian and an artist," Sarandon said. "Here's a reformed alcoholic who seems to have had a working relationship with her daughter and who we can surmise was probably more honest as a mother."

With her own children, Sarandon said she tries to be encouraging wherever their interests lead them. Daughter Eva is preparing for college next year, and she will have Sarandon's blessing whether she sticks with acting or pursues another career.

"The only thing that really made me nervous about raising kids was having a privileged kid who wasn't interested in anything," Sarandon said. "Anything, if they have a passion, I'm there. Because I don't know how you deal with the other." *AP*

PANELO. Wants to spread her wings.

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Belinda Panelo mulls move to US

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

MTV VJ Belinda Panelo is seriously thinking about packing her bags and leaving the country for good. "I want to explore new things, spread my wings," she tells us.

After playing a *contravida* in an evening soap, she flew to the States to think things over, and she's sort of made up her mind during those months that she was away. "I want to study, maybe take up a film course. I guess I've almost reached a saturation point here."

Belinda is also thinking of settling down in the States with her beau, tennis hotshot Joseph Lizardo. But before she flies away, she has a film with Piolo Pascual, Donita Rose and Dominic Ochoa. Directed by Joey Reyes, "Nine Mornings" might just be Belinda's last major project before she starts a new chapter in her life. We wish you well, Belinda.

'Prosti' looks promising

Erik Matti's latest movie delves into the lives and loves of girls for hire. Although it definitely cannot be called a masterpiece, with a lot of palpable flaws in script development, editing, lighting and music score, the movie features some noteworthy performances.

Newcomer Aubrey Miles registers well on the screen, and her rawness as an actress helps in bringing out the vulnerability her character needed. Raquel Villavicencio also does well as the sex den's mother hen. Paolo Rivero and Hazel Espinosa have forgettable roles but they are able to rise above their limitations.

But it is Jay Manalo who turns in the most felt performance, as the assistant who falls for the charms of one of his wards.

Two aces for 'Lunchbreak'

Channel 13's noontime show "Lunchbreak Muna" may be lagging far behind in terms of ratings, but it got two aces with its recent inclusion of Cristy Fermin and Jobert Sucaldito.

The tandem has added spice and spunk to an otherwise ho-hum variety show, which has been getting a lot of flak for hiring cheesy, trying-hard hosts.

The no-nonsense duo give their opinions about the latest buzz in the biz, and they also interview celebrity guests in their segment.

Mahal is Jimboy's lucky charm

Jimboy Salazar believes that there's a perfect time for everything. He's making a comeback via a new self-titled CD under Synergy Music. And he's got Mahal, everyone's forever little girl, professing love for him.

"Mahal is my lucky charm," he claims unabashedly, while planting a kiss on her cheek, adding "she is the most special thing that has happened to me!"

For her part, Mahal is all doe-eyed and on Cloud Nine. Why does she love Jimboy? "*Maasikaso siya. Mahal na mahal niya ako.*"

The two even have a theme song, a cut from Jimboy's debut album titled "Kahit Sino (Basta Mahal Ako!)." OK, fine, whatever.

Words to live by

From page E2

through the fire of purification and transcend all fears of death, old age, disease, material loss and pain.)

Source

When you drink water, remember the source. (A wise man appreciates the source of all good, nourishment and beauty. The Supreme Lord is the Cause of all Causes and we must remember Him with love as we accept His blessings and mercy.)

A single spark can set a prairie on fire. (A single act of loving devotion to the Lord can change a man's life and those of others. If you take even one step towards the Lord, He will take a thousand steps towards you.)

On earth, no feast lasts forever. (Materialists crave for the limited servings of pleasure allotted in this limited world. A saintly man partakes of an eternal feast and has so much more that he can share with others who are hungry.)

Email the authors at lotuspond108@hotmail.com.

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Per BFAD-NCR Permit No 0359, Series of 2002

Ogie Alcasid achieves cumulative high point in his career

By Nestor U. Torre

IT looks like 2002 is going to be Ogie Alcasid's best and busiest year. He's just had a big Araneta Coliseum concert, he's seen regularly on TV in shows like "Bubble Gang," "Family Feud" and "SOP," he's an in-demand composer of pop songs, he's just become a daddy for the second time, *and* he's co-starring with Michael V in a new comedy film, "Bestman."

Multi-pronged success

It's taken more than a decade of hard work and stick-to-it-iveness for Ogie to reach this cumulative high point in his career, but it's been worth it. Multi-pronged success as TV-movie star, singer-dancer, composer and comedian is enjoyed by only a few "total-performer" talents like Ogie Alcasid—and Ogie Alcasid.

How did Ogie get to this impressive convergence of his stellar skills? He's talented, of course, but so are many other show biz people. What Ogie has bothered to do is to develop his abilities, sometimes in unexpected ways and directions.

He started as a singer, period. We remember catching one of his early live singing stints, and he was good, but not all that spectacular. Well, he worked on his voice, interpretation and performance style, and eventually became and outstanding singer.

Pragmatism

Comedy was not yet in his bag of tricks, but it soon reared its court-jester head. In this surprising development, we find an interesting illustration of his pragmatism:

He knew he wasn't tall, not as handsome as Aga Muhlach, and not as charismatic as Ric Segreto, so he realized that, if he continued to be just a pop singer and balladeer, he wouldn't really go places. So, he cleverly parlayed his lack of stature and his just-folks looks, coupled it with a belatedly-discovered sense of humor, and clicked as a comedian.

The songwriting and TV-show hosting also followed the same creative and hardworking route, and with the popularity that they engendered, the movies beckoned.

Public affirmation

His big concert was his move to consolidate his gains, to seek public affirmation for his pains, and to propel him to even greater heights in 2003. Who says you have to be tall to reach the stars? Ogie's multi-talents assure him all the stature he needs to do that—without benefit of elevator shoes!

We feel we know what makes Ogie tick because we were involved in his most surprising project to date: he played Jose Rizal in the Musical Theater Philippines production, "Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal?," which we directed some years ago. Yes, the singer-comedian once aspired to playing the national hero and martyr!—partly because they hailed form the same town, Calamba, in Laguna province.

Demanding scenes

When we first heard that Ogie wanted to play Rizal, we rejected the idea. We liked his singing, and we wanted our Rizal to be Asian and short like him, but we were afraid that he wasn't "deep" enough to do justice to the character's many demanding scenes. And we feared that viewers would giggle when he went onstage, and thus detract from the protagonist's heroic essence.

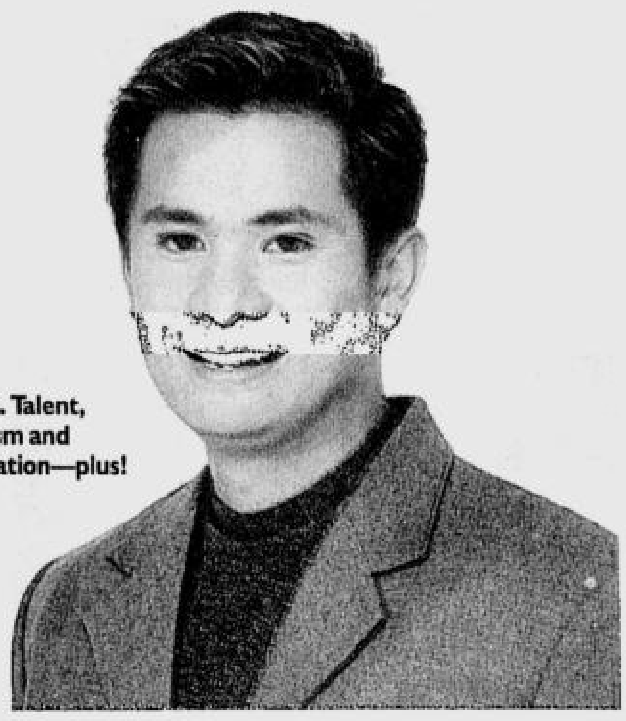
Instead of meekly accepting our decision, however, Ogie asked for a private audition. Now, this was unexpected, because stars like him don't really have to audition for roles. But he felt strongly enough about the role to humble himself by doing that.

Challenge

We agreed, and for two hours, we took Ogie through the entire script, concentrating on the most emotionally difficult scenes. With some guidance, he was able to rise to their challenge. After those two hours, we were both exhausted, but the musical had found its Jose Rizal.

In rehearsals, Ogie worked really hard, so by the time we opened, nobody giggled at the thought of the comedian-singer playing the national hero, and Ogie got rave reviews for his performance in Nonoy Gallardo's musical.

That's' why we aren't surprised that Ogie has risen to even greater heights in the succeeding years. With talent and determination like his, how can he lose?



ALCASID. Talent, pragmatism and determination—plus!

Winners . . .

From page E4

then people would have overlooked any flaws, because those who saw it were moved by it."

Understandably, when she was interviewed, Mercier was still quite bitter about the play. "If you're an unknown writer—and also a woman, I might add—you can say something, but, my God, that doesn't mean anybody listens to you," she said derisively. "So if I made a suggestion—Lordy knows, I learned not to do that too much. Because no one listened. Unless you have a director and a producer who are determined to carry out your vision, it's very difficult."

Big chunk

"It took only a little time to write the play," she sighed. "But the writing and the preproduction and the rehearsals totaled three years. That's a big chunk of your life to suddenly have thrown away on the basis of one journalist's opinion. And that's what it came down to. Mr. Barnes' opinion is all that they listened to."

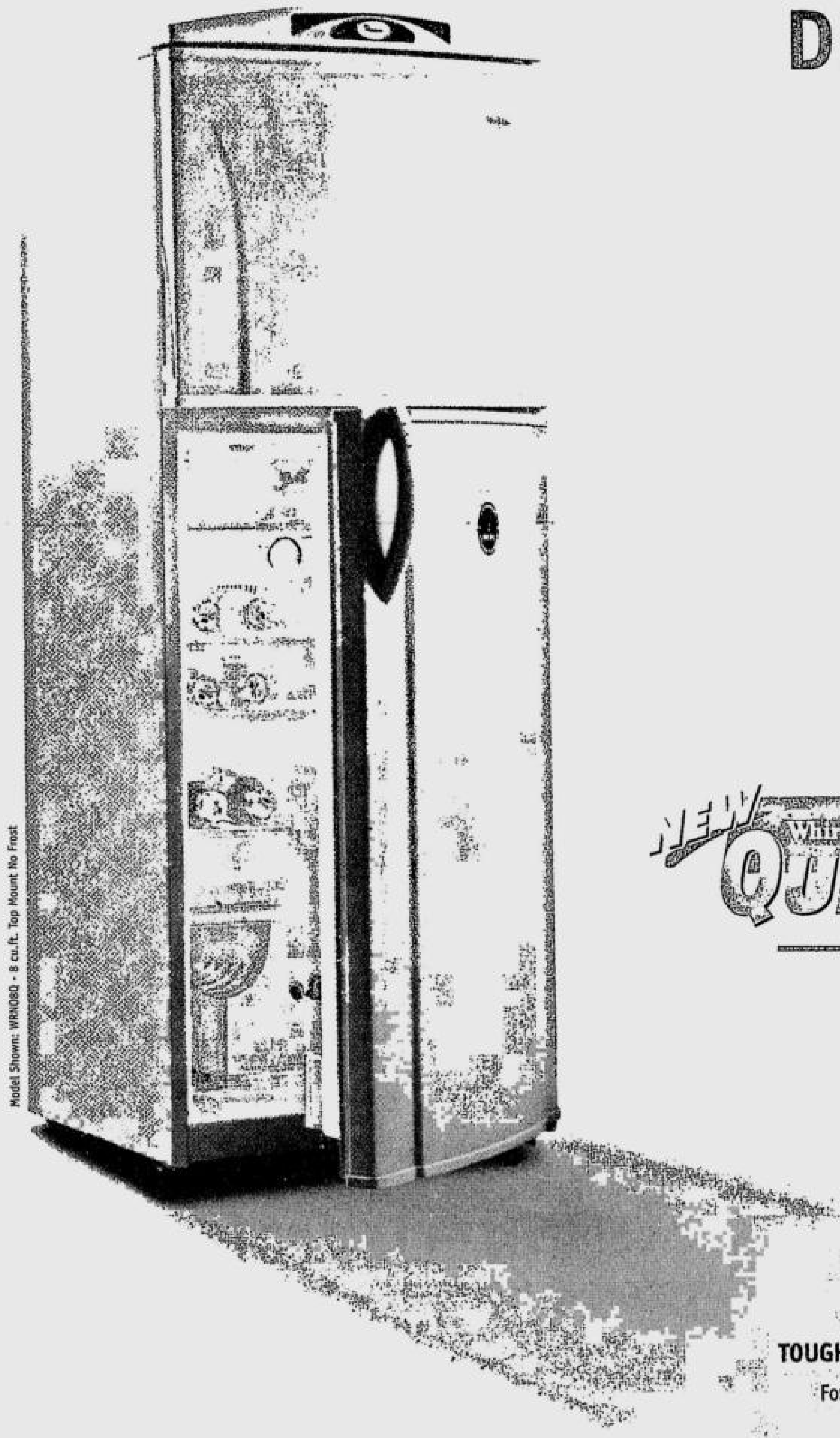
"What I find so painful," said Goldman, "is that critics don't realize that you can say pretty much what you want to say about Harold Robbins or Barbra Streisand, and they will survive. But when you're dealing with a new writing talent, a young talent, the possibility and the daydreams of success are so great that when they fail it can be so terrifying that they'll never go to bat again.

"Always, the critics' first responsibility ought to be toward the artist, but especially so with new talent. Because you can kill it . . . The unfairness of how Mary Mercier was treated bothered me so terribly, because everybody was saying, 'Where are the new playwrights? And there was one, with this extraordinary play, and she got kicked in the teeth."

Mercier, an actress from Wales, had written a family comedy-drama about a 16-year-old trying to find his place in the family and in life. "This poignant character study of a sensitive teenager's quest for maturity is laced with humor and humane honesty," wrote Brown. Apparently some other critics thought so, too, and even Barnes himself, after the play had closed, called it "promising." It was too late by then.

"'Johnny No-Trump' wasn't a Broadway failure;" wrote Brown, "it was a Broadway casualty."

Goldman and Mercier have two contrasting stories, and it may seem that the former is indeed a winner and the latter a loser, but Brown doesn't show them that way. What he gives us is a picture of two talented people whose careers took very different turns. He shows us that talent alone—even when coupled with passion—can't always see you through.



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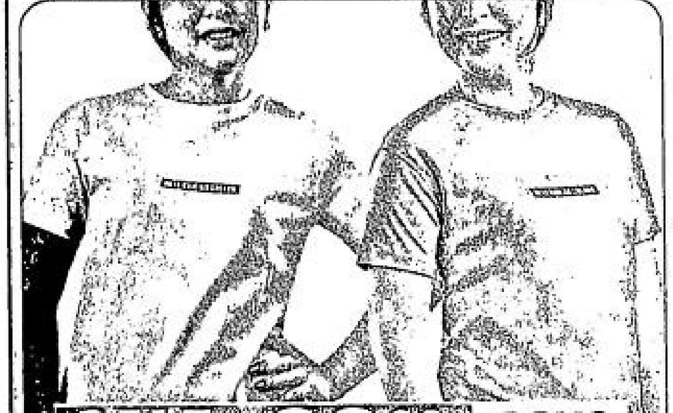

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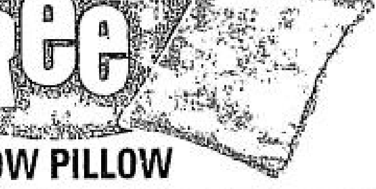

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1757 Series of 2002

SATURDAY*Special*

Aga and Claudine in first movie team-up

By Jocelyn Valle

FOR almost seven months now, Aga Muhlach has been spending his weekends away from his wife Charlene and their twin kids Atasha Aaron and Antonio Andres, who are turning a year old on Nov. 5. And each time he leaves the house, his heart breaks.

Happy

"That's why, when I get a call *na* pack-up *kami*, I feel so happy," he beams.

But Aga feels guilty when he realizes that the long delay in the production's completion means less working opportunities for the crew. "*Imbes na makapagtrabaho sila sa maraming pelikula, isa lang ang nagagawa nila*," he says, shaking his head.

Among the many movies he's done, his latest film assignment, Star Cinema's "Kailangan Kita," has taken the longest time to wrap up. "*Lahat na yata nag-*birthday *sa* set," he laughs. "But we're having fun."

For starters, Aga and his costars, particularly his leading lady, Claudine Barretto, got to tour the Bicol region, where the movie's story is set. "*Nakapag-*malling *din kami*," he smiles. "*Maayos ang mga kalsada. At ang mga tao, ang babait*."

"*Iniimbita nila kami sa mga bahay nila*," Claudine chimes in. "*At kailangan kumain kami sa bawat bahay*."

Taste buds

Well, Aga and Claudine have been tickling their taste buds even before shooting began. They were required to take cooking lessons to give justice to their roles: Aga is Carl, who's a chef (specializing in French cuisine) in New York and Claudine is Lena, a Bicolana whiz in the kitchen. And director Rory Quintos is taking plenty of close-up shots as the two leads cook, either alone or together.

Carl goes back to the country to marry his fiancé (Lena's New Yorker sister) in her hometown. But she gets stuck in the States to finish some work, leaving her poor husband-to-be in the thick of preparations for the wedding. Lena comes to the rescue. She gives Carl a hand—and eventually, her heart.

"*Walang kilig dito*," Aga warns moviegoers, especially his fans, who love to watch him in light romantic flicks. "*Puro* passion!"

But he'd rather not compare Carl and Lena's compelling emotions to the notoriously hot *siling labuyo*, which is a must in Bicolano cookery.

For the first time, Claudine has a movie love scene. She feels that "Kailangan Kita" is the perfect vehicle for it, and Aga, is the ideal partner.

"*Kung hindi rin lang siya, 'wag na lang*," she says, adding that it was also with Aga that she had her first kiss on TV, in a telesine shown nine years ago. "I feel comfortable and safe with him."

Aga and Claudine prepared well for the love scene. "*Gusto namin 'yung bago na hindi pa napapanood ng tao*," he recalls. "*So nag-usap kami. Game talaga siya*."

However, when they got to the set, and told *Direk* Rory what they had in mind, she told them that she wanted a tender love scene (apparently to make "Kailangan Kita" get a GP rating).

Anyway, there are other interesting developments in the story. Carl, for instance, learns to appreciate his homeland through his experiences and the people he meets in Bicol.

"At first, he's denying his Filipino heritage," notes Aga of his character. "*Mas gusto niya 'yung sa* New York. *Ang nakikita niya 'yung hindi maganda dito*. Eventually, *magbabago siya. Kung-ano ang itsura ng tao dito, ganun na rin siya. At 'yung* lighting, *ganun rin ang* effect."

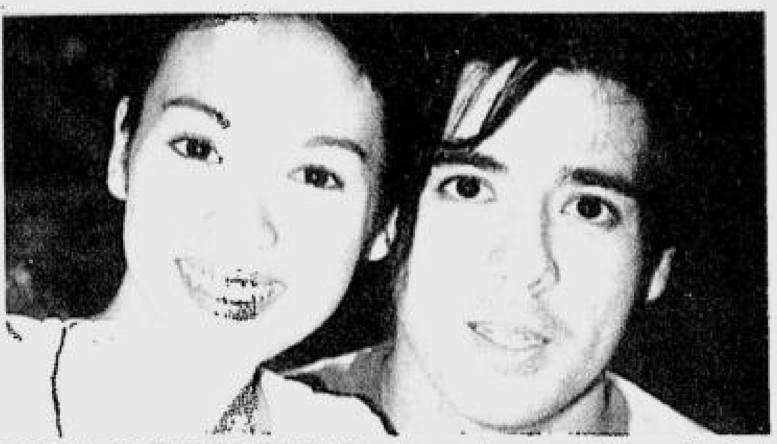
Location

"*Hindi na nga ako nagdadala ng damit sa* shooting," Aga quips. "*Kung ano ang meron sa* production, *'yun ang sinusuot ko*." He was wearing a tie-dyed shirt and blue jeans when we visited the movie's location in Sta. Rita, Pampanga, where some shots were taken.

Claudine is similarly casually dressed in a white blouse and skirt, and her face is almost makeup-free. Concealer had to be applied to the dark area around her eyes. "I've been sick *kasi*," she explains.

She adds that unlike her character, who's uncared for by her family, she gets the attention of her parents and siblings because

AGA/ F2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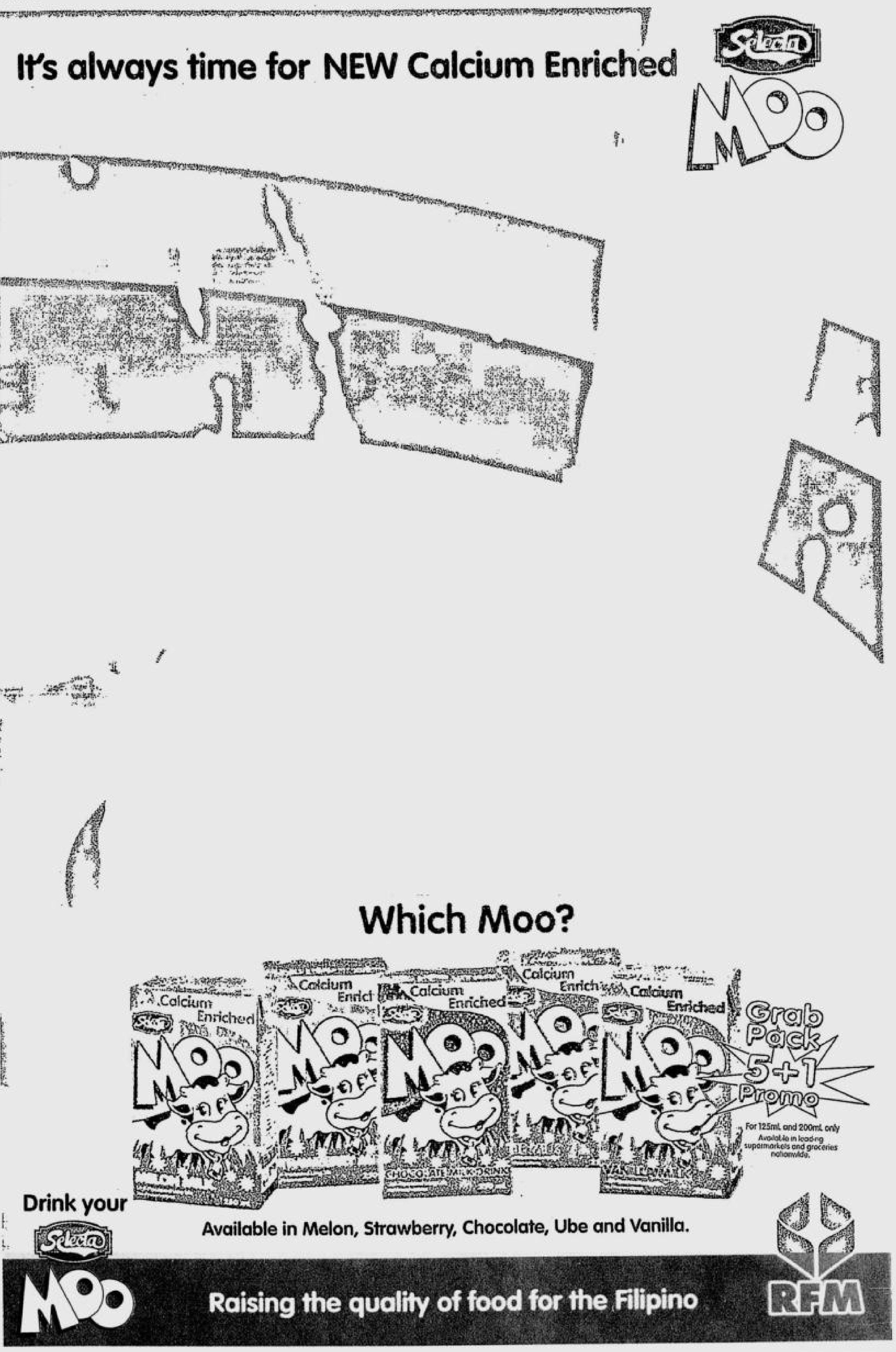
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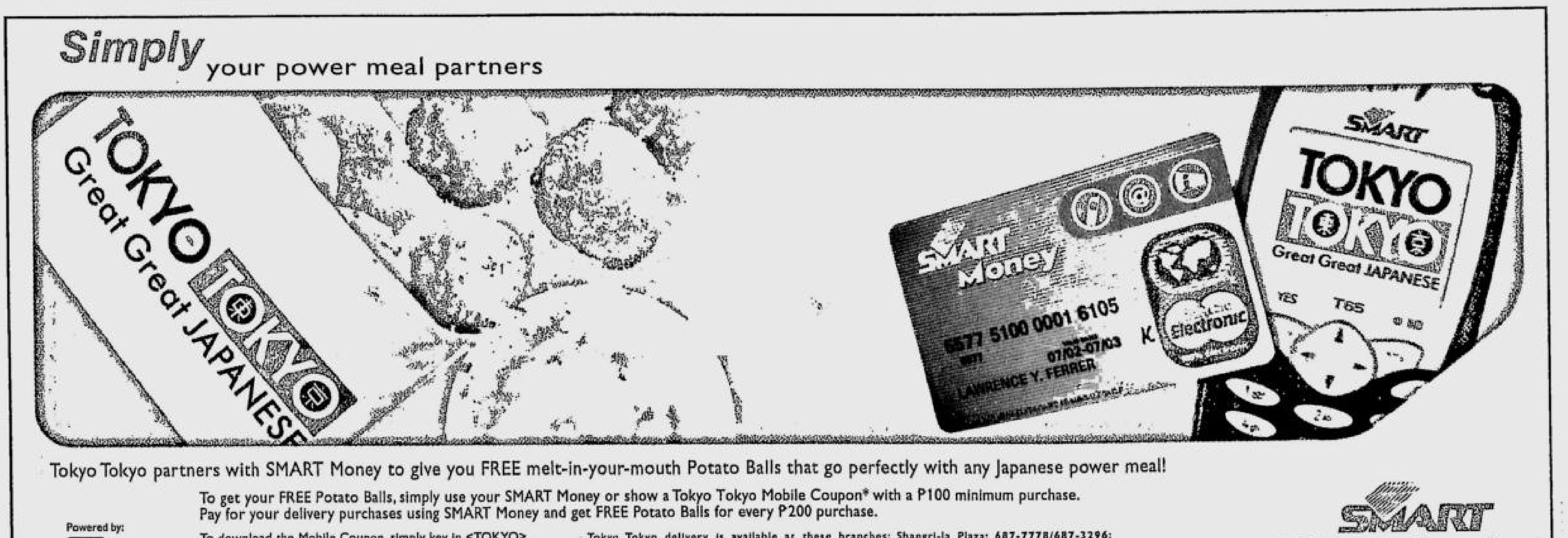
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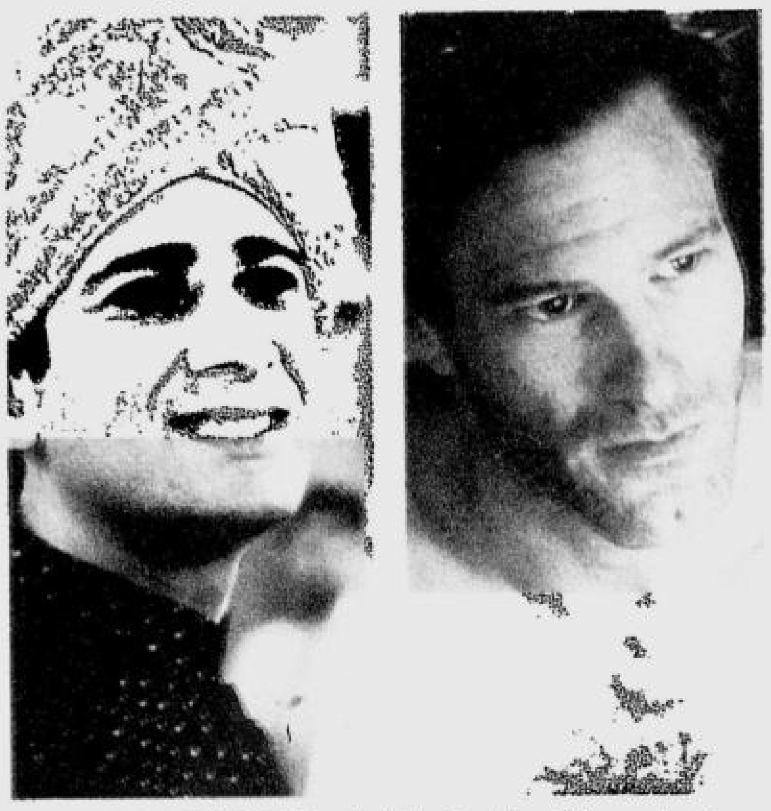
SMART Simply Amazing!

New leading men get their big chance to shine

By Nestor U. Torre


MISTRY AND ECKHART. Star in "The Guru" and "Possession," respectively.

WITH male superstars like Tom Hanks, Tom Cruise, Mel Gibson and Nicolas Cage making one film after another, you'd think that there would be precious little room in Hollywood for new leading men.

Shallow pockets

Fact is, however, that those major stars cost a staggering $20 million-plus per film, so producers with shallow pockets have to discover their own lead players, who agree to act in films for bargain rates just to give their careers a much-needed boost.

Of these new leads, Aaron Eckhart has had it best of all. He's romanced Julia Roberts in "Erin Brokovich" and Cameron Diaz in "Any Given Sunday," and he now gets to woo Gwyneth Paltrow in "Possession."

Eckhart's role in his new film is his biggest by far. He plays an American scholar in London on a fellowship to research the life and works of a great poet named Randolph Henry Ash.

As fate would have it, Paltrow's character is researching the oeuvre of Victorian poet Christabel La Motto. First separately and soon enough together, Eckhart and Paltrow discover that Ash and LaMotto had secretly been exchanging love letters. The researchers then follow a trail of clues across Europe, tracing the romantic journey of the "poetic" lovers more than 100 years ago.

Relative unknown

How did a relative unknown like Eckhart clinch the plum assignment as Gwyneth Paltrow's leading man in "Possession"? It turns out that he has known the film's director, Neil LaBute, for over a decade. They attended the same school and collaborated on some stage pieces, and on all of LaBute's feature films.

What about his character in "Possession" appealed most to Eckhart? "His being an intellectual misfit who hasn't found his place. He's an American living in England, isolated, still searching. I like the idea that he's searching for another person's life, and also for his own. That he was disenchanted with love, and has even given it up—but later on discovers that, although love may be difficult to find and nurture, it's worth it."

Footlights

Meanwhile , in "The Guru," a different kind of new leading man is getting his big showcase. Jimi Mistry plays a young Indian dance instructor who is mesmerized by Broadway's footlights. A friend promises him a New York penthouse, a red Mercedes and an endless chorus line of blonde "Baywatch"-type babes, and he's hooked.

Of course, real stardom turns out to be much more difficult to achieve than he and his friend have imagined. But he inadvertently clinches it by becoming a guru, thus enjoying all the trappings of fame and fortune that he has dreamed about.

Mistry is regarded as one of Britain's best young actors. After drama school, he got his first break as the rebellious Tariq in the hit stage play "East Is East," on London's West End.

Continuing character

After playing a continuing character in the popular UK TV drama, "EastEnders," he reprised the role of Tariq in the film version of "East Is East," which premiered at the Cannes filmfest.

Other film credits: "Born Romantic," a salsa comedy where he was cast as an incompetent petty thief. "My Kingdom," a modern-day take on "King Lear," where he played a sadistic torturer. And "The Mystic Masseur," a film by Ishmail Merchant that was shot in Trinidad.

This early, Mistry is being hailed as this movie generation's Omar Sharif.—Not a bad act to follow, since Sharif was very busy making one movie after another for more than 10 years.

Joyce Jimenez sells shoes in her latest sexy starrer

By Edmund L. Sicam

MANALO AND JIMENEZ. She wants to be a preschool teacher!

AFTER the introduction of new sexy stars like Maui Taylor, Aubrey Miles and Lolita de Leon, it's the turn of Joyce Jimenez to prove to moviegoers that no one beats the original "Pantasya ng Bayan." This time, Joyce gets to show off her dramatic talents as well as her curvaceous assets in the movie "Masikip, Mainit, Paraisong Parisukat," based on Orlando Nadres play.

Happy

Joyce explains her role: "My character is happy just being a salesgirl. She thinks that's the best that she can do. And she's never been with a man before. So when Jay (Manalo) and she do interact, she gives everything she has."

Didn't she also play a salesgirl in "Warat"? "Yeah, *pero medyo* wild child *ako doon*. But in this one, I'm a contemporary Filipina *na* very happy. She sees Manila as the most beautiful place on earth. She thinks selling shoes is the best that life can give her, and that it doesn't get better."

Since her character is a plain Jane, Joyce has to be the exact opposite of what she is in real life. How do you make Joyce Jimenez plain-looking? "Makeup or, more accurately, no makeup. *Sarap nga, e.* No makeup whatsoever for the entire movie. And the only thing I wear is my uniform. Sarap!"

Motivation

But if her character thinks that this is as good as life gets, how does she fall in love with Jay Manalo's character? "I just fell in love with him because no guy has ever made me *pansin* before."

Is Joyce like her character in the movie? "I've never expected much *naman, e* . . . I feel happy with what I have *na*. I've never been big on makeup, clothes and stuff like that. My main ambition is to go to college."

But she's already a star—why does she want to go back to school? "For myself. To me, education is something very, very important, something everyone should have. I'm not going to be an actress for the rest of my life. I want to be a preschool teacher!"

Marriage

But marriage—is that a priority for her at all? "I do want to get married, I want to have children—but without the right man, I can't have that. So I think *na* if the right man comes along, *saka papasok ang pagiging* housewife *ko*."

Joyce's character does grow in the movie, just like Joyce in real life. "She realizes there is more to life than being a salesgirl. It's okay to wish for more. *Kasi, natatakot ang* character *ko* to try to move on. But she gets stronger, and eventually she realizes there's a lot more to life than being a salesgirl."

How's her acting in this movie? "I'm still pretty insecure, but let's just say I gave it more than 100 percent.I gave it my all!"

Sometimes, it rains

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

As I write this, I feel sad. There is this thick coat of loneliness wrapping me—and the more it covers me, the colder I feel inside.

Activities

I really don't know if this is some hormonal thing. I'm sure there are a million and one activities going on right now inside this good, ol' body of mine. I'm not getting any younger—and there are certain mechanisms inside that used to work well but are now operating way below capacity.

Or, it may be some chemical reaction to all the medicines I'm taking. I mean, I do gobble up a lot of pills—even if they have been reduced from more than 20 at the height of the scare to just 12 now.

Or it can be related to my dialysis. Because I see a certain pattern emerging. I feel the grip of sadness most severely after I come from my thrice-weekly treatments. At the center, I usually find myself in high spirits—greeting everyone with a cheerfulness that is so powerful it drives away all gloom. But after four hours, when the treatment is over and it's time for me to go, the melancholy begins to creep inside.

Whatever it is, Clara, I think, this is the perfect time for me to talk to you about the blues—and how to chase them away. As you must know, we can't forever be cheerful—it's very hard to smile through the rain.

Womb of family

Yes, sometimes, it rains. And when it does, you go inside so you don't get drenched. Going inside means going back to the womb of family, where solace and comfort always lives. If there is a break in the peace at home, the rain should compel you to patch up the roof, so there won't be leaks to disturb you in your sleep.

I confess, Clara, that this is sometimes very hard to do. Like, when I get a severe attack of melancholy, I develop this thirst for family—but I sometimes prevent myself from quenching it because of nagging questions like whether they'll have time for me, loaded as they all are with their own personal concerns and worries.

As for you, my precious child, be not afraid. Whenever you thirst, drink from the cup of family. And fill yourself up. That water, you can be assured, is always pure.

Going inside also means reconnecting and touching base with people whose love you can always count on. Like, friends you can rely on, soul mates in whose company you can find the balm to soothe your weary heart—kindred spirits who know you, accept you and with whom you can lower all your defenses and just be.

Friends

Through the years, I have collected friends who have the wisdom to give inspired advice, who have the gift of laughter and fun, who have ears with which to listen patiently to my woes, who have the resources to help in times of need, and whose life stories are so checkered that they remind me how puny my own stories are.

Friendship is such a divine gift, Clara. Invest in friendship, and you shall live to reap huge dividends. Plant the seeds of your friendship and cultivate them well. When they blossom, they shall brighten up your life.

Coming in from the rain also means journeying back deep into yourself and trying to discover the peace that always resides there, but is sometimes overwhelmed by all the things we litter our heart with—like excessive/obsessive ambition, hatred and anger, worldly passions and attachments, and false values like pride, vanity, avarice and selfishness.

For our peace to be resuscitated back to health, we should wash out all the litter from our heart. When that peace blooms, it begets joy—the kind that does not depend on the whim and caprice of the moment, but is sustained by self-replenishing love.

Difficulty

I confess that I sometimes have some difficulty with this. Sometimes, when I return to self, I end up crying buckets of tears. There are times when the peace is so hard to find that I wonder if it hasn't already died! But I keep on trying to find it,- because I know that God will not allow that peace to perish. After all, it came from Him.

Which brings me to my next point, Clara: Going inside also means retracing your steps back to God—volting into the power source that never goes empty. I know, my dear child, how deeply you are rooted in the Lord. But I'd like to caution you against what is called spiritual snobbery. This happens when you become so confident and complacent about your relationship with God that you take Him for granted—without your knowing it.

You'll know that you've reached that point when your prayers can't seem to nourish you anymore, when God appears deaf and mute to your cries, when all of heaven takes on a silent mode that baffles and stupefies you.

When this happens, it's not that God's presence is not with you—it's that your presence is not with Him! It's not that He's not there for you—because He always is. It's that you are not there for Him—which happens, as you'll realize when you look deep enough, quite often. And that's precisely what I mean by retracing your steps back to Him.

I know this, Clara, because it has happened to me—so many times, in fact, that I've lost count. Not that it matters, because God doesn't count, either.

Umbrella

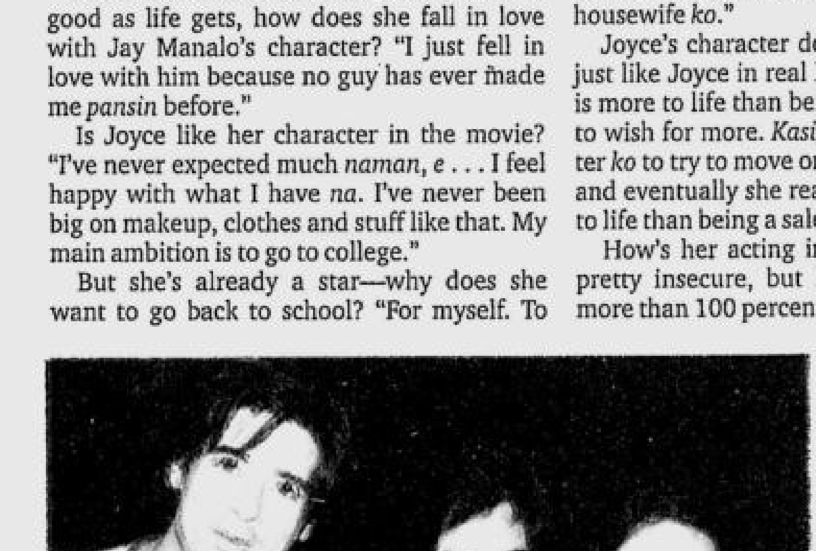
Of course, there are people who simply take out their umbrella when it rains. You can also do that, Clara—but that is presuming that you have an umbrella. Sometimes, rain comes so unexpectedly that you find out too late that you left your umbrella at home.

It's really up to you to identify what your umbrella is. For some people, it's wealth. For others, it's power. And there are those whose umbrella is their intelligence, high education, good looks, wit and sense of humor, lineage and family history, or skill and talent.

But, know what, Clara? Umbrellas are inadequate. When the rain is too strong, you get soaked even under a big one. And they are weak, too. When the winds blow too hard, the fabric rips, the metal framework collapses, and you get wet to the bone.

My dear Clara, when it rains, go inside!

For your comments, insights, questions and suggestions—badids2000@yahoo.com.


MUHLACH and Barretto with their director, Rory B. Quintos (center).

Aga and Claudine . . .

From page F1

she's the youngest. "*Ang* similarity *namin: pareho kaming nagkikimkim ng sama ng loob kaya* one day, *sasabog na lang nang 'di mo alam kung bakit.*"

The star of the soap opera "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan" shares that she sometimes finds her small-screen alter ego lurking as she plays her role in "Kailangan Kita." "But *Direk* always tells me: '*Ayoko ng* Angeline *dito. Gusto ko,* Lena.' We've worked on two movies ('Mangarap Ka' and 'Anak') before and she already knows which 'buttons' to push when motivating me."

Situation

If a scene requires her to cry, she focuses on the character and the situation. She refrains from thinking of her past experiences, especially the most recent ones. "*Baka kasi hindi ko makaya,*" she sighs.

Since finding the love of his life and becoming a father again, Aga, on the other hand, has been having problems with his dramatic scenes. One time, it took him seven hours (from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.) to convince his lachrymal glands to cooperate. "*Naiyak ako dahil sa inis,*" he recalls with a chuckle. "*Nakakahiya na kasi sa mga kasama ko.*"

"OK *kasi ako ngayon.* I'm happy with my life," he declares, as he excitedly shows us his babies' digital images on his cellular phone. In the meantime, at least, Aga is not that far away from home!

The Dawn rises again in the music world

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

(Conclusion)

"ONE company wanted us to change our image, our songs. OctoArts on the other hand, demanded no change. They assisted us in recording to make our songs more palatable. *Yung* 'Enveloped Ideas' *pinalambot*," Jun Boy reveals.

Untimely demise

Alas, the guy responsible for the birth of the Dawn didn't see the fruits of his labor. On Aug. 21, 1988, Teddy Diaz was involved in a senseless incident which caused his untimely demise. He died two weeks before a scheduled big concert at the Folk Arts Theater. The concert was turned into a tribute and they invited guest guitar players from other bands (AfterImage, Lava, Identity Crisis).

With Teddy Diaz on guitars, their first two albums, "The Dawn" and "I Stand With You," became hits. Teddy was eventually replaced by Atsushi Matsuura, who played on their next two albums, "Beyond the Bend," and "The Dawn Live (at the Ultra)." Francis recorded three albums, "Heart's Thunder," "Abot Kamay," and "Puno't Dulo."

Their new album, "Prodigal Sun" has 11 tracks and a new handle on "Salamat." However, they believe that the best song on the album is "I Saw You Coming In."

"The song has good lyrics but I still think it should be remixed. We tried to incorporate electronic music into our sound. 'Prodigal Sun' is eclectic. We borrowed from different genres," Jun Boy shares.

"The problem *lang* with 'Prodigal Sun' is it's difficult to market because The Dawn has no specific sound. When you hear Chico's Eye and Slapshock, you know they're into metal (music)." Francis adds.

Strength

"But not having a specific sound is also our strength, because we don't have a 'style' so we can play with Greyhoundz and Slapshock *and* in fiestas," Jett reveals.

"These days, bands have niches. So even if they have a free concert, *hindi pa rin napupuno*. Also, a lot of the followers of bands are now working abroad," Jun Boy explains.

Other bandmates start out as friends, but the members of The Dawn were all total strangers when they formed the group. The bond that holds them together is their passion for music.

Jett clarifies, "Our years as a band brought us closer together. That's why we still maintain a level of respect to keep the bond healthy."

"Each member serves a purpose. When we were starting, we just wanted to be tight. To be good, we had to rehearse everyday. Now our struggle is that we have a member who's not always here. He's in the province, managing a sugarcane farm," Jun Boy shares.

Other bands resort to gimmicks to survive. But the members of The Dawn have jobs and businesses to sustain themselves so they don't have to sell out.

What wouldn't they do as a band?

No cover songs

"If it were up to us, there wouldn't be cover songs in our gigs. We play covers that we and our audience like. We sing songs that we can relate to," Jett observes.

"Our name has been around for ages. When we perform onstage, we try to be loud. Younger kids refer to us as the 'band my older brother or father listens to.' *Kung sa tingin ng tao hindi kami* loud *kagaya ng ibang banda*, that doesn't stop us from being aggressive.

What is their biggest dream?

Jett smiles, "To have Bill Gates' bank account!"

Jun Boy grins, "To be a successful band. To stop piracy."

Francis reveals, "Before my dream was to go on a US tour, but we already did that last year!"

Jett sums it up, "To make The Dawn last for another five years—playing and enjoying it!"

GIBBS. Excellent voice.

Compilation of top singers' live concert performances

By Leia Torre

"LIVE Series" is a compilation of the live recordings of songs sung at concerts by such artists as Sharon Cuneta, Jaya, Lani Misalucha, Janno Gibbs, and Ogie Alcasid. Its 13 tracks feature these artists' renditions of both OPM and foreign hit songs.

Nine different albums

The tracks have been compiled from nine different albums—"Regine Live," "Freestyle Live," "Jaya Live," "Shindig Live," "Zsa Zsa Live," "Lani Misalucha: The Crossover Live Tour," "Sharon Mega Up Close," "Jaya and Regine," and "Janno Gibbs and Ogie Alcasid."

The tracks include "Tuwing Umuulan" by Regine Velasquez, "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang" by Freestyle and Pops Fernandez, "Jaya Hits Medley" by Jaya, "We're All Alone" by Zsa Zsa Padilla, "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me" by Lani Misalucha, "When You Say Nothing at All" by Pops Fernandez, "Sunlight" by Sharon Cuneta, "She" by Janno Gibbs, "Love Medley" by Freestyle, "Celine Dion Hits Medley" by Zsa Zsa Padilla, "Ogie Hits Medley" by Jaya and Regine Velasquez, "Whitney Houston Medley" by Lani Misalucha, and "Ogie and Janno Duet" by Ogie Alcasid and Janno Gibbs.

Love songs

Lani Misalucha gives an excellent rendition of Whitney Houston's more popular.and enduring love songs in the "Whitney Houston Medley"—"I Will Always Love You," "I Have Nothing," "All At Once," "Didn't We Almost Have It All," "Greatest Love of All," and "One Moment in Time."

Houston is known for her ability to reach high notes and still keep her voice solid and soothing at the same time, a talent shared by Misalucha.

Jaya and Regine Velasquez give a new twist to some of Ogie Alcasid's songs in their "Ogie Hits Medley"—"Nandito Ako," "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," and "Pangako." Their voices blend well, and they don't overpower each other.

Similar

Janno Gibbs' rendition of "She" is remarkably similar to the one done by Elvis Costello in the film "Notting Hill." Mr. Gibbs' excellent voice is suited to this song, and makes the already romantic song even more loverly.

Zsa Zsa Padilla isn't quite as successful as Misalucha in bringing out the essence of Celine Dion's songs, because her voice lacks Dion's power. But she has imbued these songs with her own touch, and some people might even prefer her smoother renditions to Dion's.

Sweet voice

Sharon Cuneta's interpretation of Kevyn Lettau's "Sunlight" is mellow, a style suited to her sweet voice. She doesn't try to copy the original singer's vocal style, and her personality permeates the song because of this.

The songs in this album are all of a romantic nature, and the effect is pleasing. The variety in terms of its performers' styles is also quite welcome.

Their voices may be less than perfect in the live-performance mode, but they also sound more unaffected and genuine. As the album's slogan says, "It ain't real, if it ain't live!"

HOW FAR CAN YOUR CHILD GO IN THE RACE CALLED LIFE?

The last time you looked, he was toying with his teether. Today, he'd rather hang out with his own group of friends. With everything that's going on in his life, is it ever possible for him to run out of energy?

EVERYDAY IS A RACE

He may be merely a child, but the many activities he goes through can easily drain your child of his energy. There are always different challenges--the demands of school, the stamina for play, and the drive to succeed over his peers. With such intense daily competition, he is bound to get tired sooner than you think.

THE CHALLENGE OF KEEPING UP

It's tough to keep up. As a parent, more focus and attention should be given to your child's energy and nutrient needs. These will determine how far he can go to achieve his goals.

To ensure that your child gets all he needs, give him a glass of MILO before he leaves for school. Not only is it an ideal breakfast drink that's rich in chocolatey taste, it's also packed with vitamins and nutrients to boost your child's energy requirements. And to make sure that your child copes, pack a bottle of MILO RTD to help him last the day.

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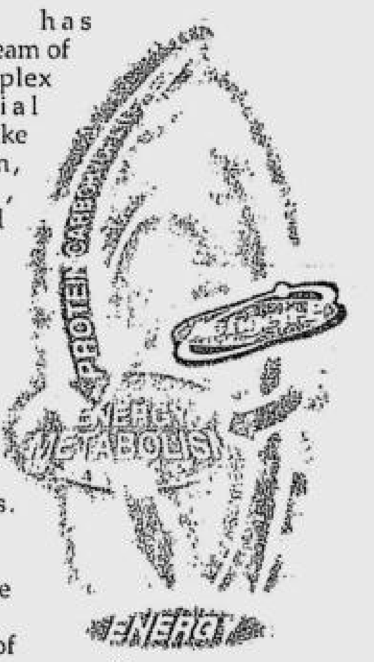

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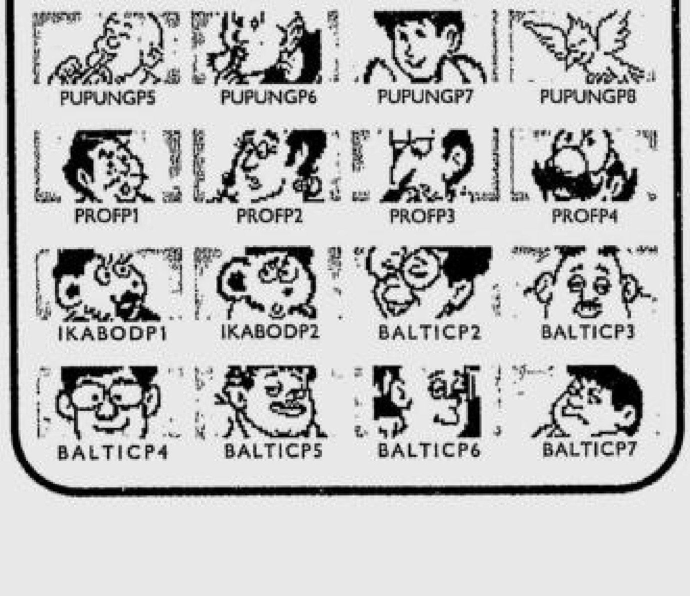
To get a list of polyphonic ringtone* keywords:	Key in **MMS NEW** and send to 209.
To play the "NAME THAT OPM TONE" game:	Key in **OPM** and send to 209.
To get the ringtone and multiple choice answers:	Key in **CLUE** and send to 209.

RINGTONES

TRACK	ARTIST	KEYWORD
• So Slow	Freestyle	**SOSLOW**
• This Time	Freestyle	**THISTYM**
• Before I Let You Go	Freestyle	**B4ILETUGO**
• Kahit Kailan	Southborder	**KAHITKAILAN**
• Love Of My Life	Southborder	**LUVMYLYF**
• Umaaraw, Umuulan	Rivermaya	**UMAARAWUMUULAN**
• Halaga	Parokya Ni Edgar	**HALAGA**
• Inuman Na	Parokya Ni Edgar	**INUMANNA**
• Okatokat	Parokya Ni Edgar	**OKATOKAT**
• Firewoman	Hungry Young Poets	**FYRWOMAN**
• Habang May Buhay	Wency Cornejo	**HABANGMYBUHAY**
• Beautiful Girl	Jose Mari Chan	**BEAUTIFULGRL**
• Please Be Careful With My Heart	Jose Mari Chan	**PLSBCAREFUL**
• Hanggang Ngayon	Regine Velasquez/ Ogie Alcasid	**HANGGANGYON**
• To Reach You	Regine Velasquez	**TOREACHU**
• Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw	Regine Velasquez	**KAILANGNKOYIKW**

PICTURE MESSAGES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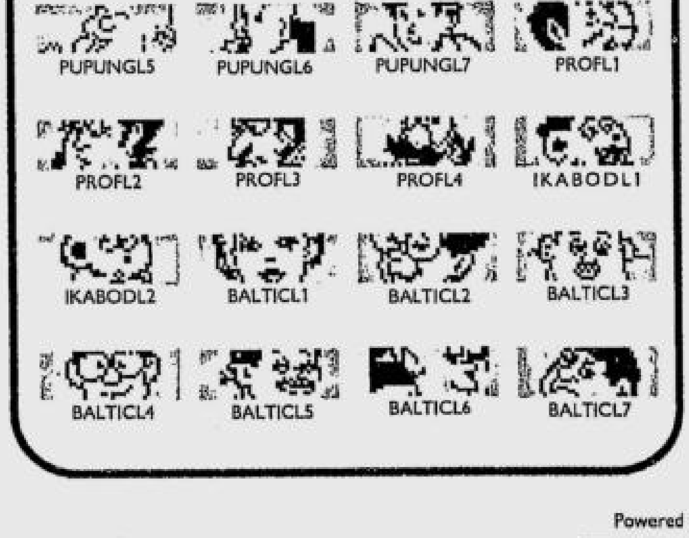
LOGOS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Reese Witherspoon joins America's sweethearts

By Jill Serjeant

LOS ANGELES—Reese Witherspoon bounds into the room wearing jeans, a pink sweatshirt, no make-up and a smile as disarming as her candor.

Sequel

The tiny, 5-foot-2-inch actress has just signed up for the sequel to last summer's surprise hit comedy "Legally Blonde" for a reported $15 million, propelling her into the league of Hollywood's highest paid female stars.

Like the not-so-dumb blond in "Legally Blonde," Witherspoon has already proved that in Hollywood you can be cute, smart and have fun. And now she looks set to captivate moviegoers all over again as a southern belle torn between two men in "Sweet Home Alabama."

No wonder they're calling her America's newest sweetheart.

"It's very flattering, certainly," Witherspoon told Reuters. "It is nice to have people's good will. But in terms of how I perceive myself, I really just feel like a working actor."

At just 26, she already has her own production company, a reputation as one of the hardest-working actors in the industry and a three-year-old daughter who she says "has taken all the self-obsession out of my life."

Salary increase

As for the meteoric salary increase (she earned just $1 million for "Legally Blonde"), last year's Golden Globe nomination, and her arrival as an "A list" celebrity, Witherspoon has few illusions.

"I don't use other people's lives or salaries as a measuring stick for my own life, and quite frankly I would be just as happy to make the same salary over and over again," she said.

"This business is so evanescent that you have to be really appreciative of good fortune when it comes your way. At some point things will change for you. Even if you are at the highest high, you are going to experience some lows so it is important to have something normal to go home to," she added.

Normal in Witherspoon's case is her actor husband, Ryan Phillippe, and their daughter, Ava, as well as her family back in Tennessee where Witherspoon says she just fell into movies without any formal training at 14.

After playing several dramatic roles as girlfriend or daughter, Witherspoon was ready to quit acting and went off to Stanford University with a view to following in her surgeon father's footsteps and going to medical school.

Niche

But then she tried her hand at comedy in a small, quirky 1996 movie called "Freeway" and realized she had found her niche as a character actor.

She made waves as the sexually aware teenager in the black-and-white 1950s world of "Pleasantville" and won a Golden Globe nomination for playing a high-school mastermind in "Election." She played the sweet but calculating Cecily, and mastered an English accent, in the movie version of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" opposite British veterans Judi Dench, Colin Firth and Tom Wilkinson.

But Witherspoon says the character she plays in her new romantic comedy "Sweet Home Alabama" is much more like her real self than any of the parts she has played.

Witherspoon portrays a southern girl who has made a successful career for herself as a fashion designer in New York.

Engaged to a handsome New York socialite, her past catches up to her when she sneaks home determined to confront the redneck small town husband she married in high school but who refuses to divorce her.

"This is the closest I have ever played to myself," she said. "I wanted to do something that was a little bit closer to my own personality, but still have fun. It makes me feel vulnerable because I don't find myself, my actual personality, to be that dynamic or charismatic."

Eyeliner

Witherspoon claims she is "a hopeless, miserable failure" at make-up and hair. "When you are a mom you don't have a lot of time to worry about how pretty your eyeliner is," she said.

But she does admit to hard work and determination. She is co-producing "Legally Blonde 2" through her own production company, Type A Films, which describes her own personality. "My mother used to call me 'little Type A.' Just very methodical and organized, trying to carry the whole world on your shoulders."

She has a project about women's professional tennis in the works and a thriller, along with a slew of ideas featuring accomplished women such as athletes and feminists.

Witherspoon's acting idols are also strong, independent women who have made their own way in an industry where fortunes change as quickly as fashions.

"Jodie Foster, Susan Sarandon, Holly Hunter, Frances McDormand—actresses who consistently do great work despite ageism and all sorts of other factors working against them," she said.

Candice Bergen, who co-stars with Witherspoon in "Sweet Home Alabama" and also knows a thing or two about longevity in Hollywood, burst into laughter when asked whether she had given Witherspoon any advice during shooting.

"Are you kidding? Reese needs no advice from anyone. Reese is so focused and so clear in terms of what she wants, and what her priorities are, and has the most tremendous talent that I can't imagine what I could possibly tell her," Bergen said. *Reuters*

WITHERSPOON. Few illusions.

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Two screen titans square off in 'K-19'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN the blockbuster submarine saga, "K-19: The Widowmaker," the most dramatic confrontations are between Captain Vostrikov and former captain Polenin. To make sure that these sequences would come off perfectly, director Kathryn Bigelow cast two strong actors, Harrison Ford and Liam Neeson, in the film's most challenging roles.

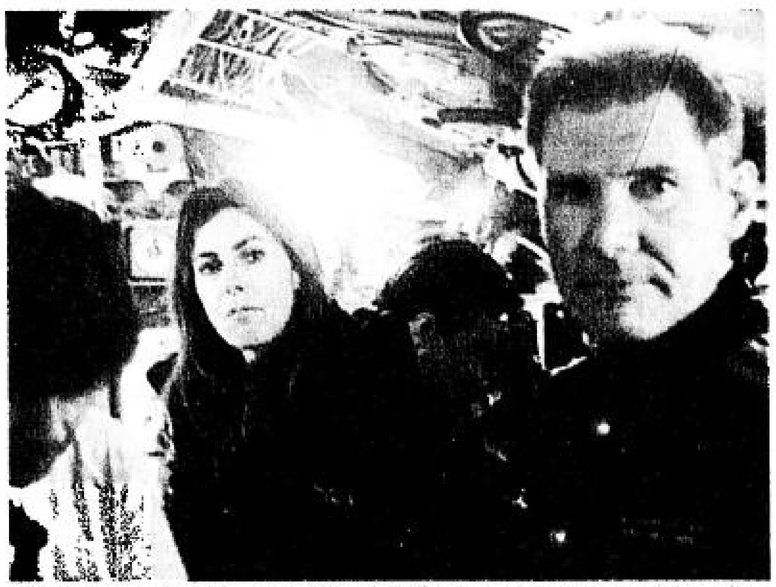
To Bigelow, the movie's primary conflict was between Vostrikov (Ford) and Polenin (Neeson). She recalls, "When we interviewed them, the survivors of the sub's atomic reactor meltdown told us that Polenin's character was the one you wanted to spend time with, the one you treated like part of your family.

"On the other hand, Vostrikov was a man you feared. Yet, if you were in a life-or-death situation, he was the one you wanted to make the decisions that would affect your survival.

"We made Polenin the former captain of the submarine who stood up for his men, warned the Soviet leadership that the K-19 wasn't ready, and ironically was 'rewarded' by being demoted to executive officer under Vostrikov."

Thus, the two men were effectively set on a collision course that would ultimately provide the underwater saga with its final confrontation, in which everything would rise to a nice dramatic climax.

Sensitive to the requirements and thespic possibilities of a given project, Ford and Neeson were glad that they would be pitted against each other, because the film's heightened drama would push them to interact with each other on new levels, and motivate them to do their best work.



"K-19." Director Bigelow (left) with Harrison Ford in a mock-up of the Soviet nuclear sub.

New music courses

Ryan Cayabyab, The Music Studio announces its new courses: Ensemble Singing for Children (ages 8-13), and Female Chorus Class (14-19). Auditions for Ensemble Singing and Female Chorus will be on Oct. 5 (today).

The Music Studio also invites office workers who feel stressed-out to de-stress themselves by singing after office hours. Call Melissa at the Music Studio at 844-3330.

Incidentally, we can vouch for the effectivity of "singing for de-stressing." When we used to take voice lessons, we'd go to our voice teacher tired and tense, but after each voice lesson, we'd feel refreshed and rejuvenated.

It's all that air you take into your lungs while singing, you see. Try it for yourselves at Ryan's Music Studio. It works.

Mall tour

The Extraderm "Fresh Face" tour with Boy Abunda and the Bridge band starts today at SM City Pampanga. It's a whole day of skin pampering for mallgoers, plus raffles and games.

Online, Tintin Bersola and Anne Curtis reveal their skincare secrets. Other mall visits are on Oct. 12 (SM City Manila) and Oct. 26 (SM Southmall).

Robin guests in Dolphy's sitcom

On Sunday, Oct. 6, Robin Padilla will be the special guest star in Dolphy's Channel 2 sitcom, "Home Along Da Riles."

Robin plays an amnesiac, and Dolphy helps him regain his memory. But he's bothered by the gun-toting goons who seem to be following their every move.

'Isang Buhay sa Tambakan'

Dulaang Talyer will stage Rolando Tinio's "Isang Buhay sa Tambakan," for free at 2 p.m. today at Rizal High School n Pasig. The performance is part of Philstage's Theater Appreciation Program in partnership with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

NEESON. Plays former captain Polenin.

Tinio's play is a biting comedy of manners about rich kids who undergo "immersion" in the slums.

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Imee Marcos shines in 'Bubble Gang'

By Edmund L. Sicam

THE GMA gag show "Bubble Gang" marked its seventh year on the air with a special show at the Music Museum. The second portion will be aired on Friday, Oct. 11.

We got invited to the Music Museum show which, GMA publicists told us, would be highlighted by the meeting of the Sex Bomb Girls and the Sex Balls Dancers, made up of Ogie Alcasid, Michael V, etc. Their number was definitely entertaining, but for us, the highlight of the evening was the interview with Congresswoman Imee Marcos.

Imee proved to all and sundry that she is a good actress. After all, she had a stint in theater during the martial law years. She played herself as a difficult subject, taunting Michael V, who played a nerdy-looking, insecure interviewer. But she would break into laughter from time to time because Micahel V came up with his own licks.

It was a treat watching Imee parry Michael's sometimes sensitive questions, and Michael staying true to character throughout the segment.

Next time "Bubble Gang" decides to hold another live show, they should think of warming up the audience before doing the show. When the tape started rolling, the cast entered the stage cold, and most of their one-liners fell flat because the audience was not yet in the mood. As the evening wore on, however, they got into the right frame of mind and the jokes got the desired reaction.

Some numbers were obviously under-rehearsed, like the dance number of Maricar de Mesa and Maureen Larrazabal, who were tentative in their movements. At the presscon for her "Bedtime Stories," Maricar told us that they learned the dance steps only that day. They had already rehearsed their steps but someone decided to change everything at the last minute.

Assunta De Rossi was conspicuously absent during the entire program but she wasn't missed as there were many other attractions in the show, like Ogie's serious songs, Michael V's operatic take on "Nananabik," and the commercial spoofs.

All in all it was an enjoyable evening. "Bubble Gang" did not disappoint, as usual.

Guessing game

A favorite guessing game among entertainment writers is trying to figure out how old Eddie Garcia really is. Last year, he told us with a straight face that he was 72 years old. Last week, we sat with him during the press dinner for GMA's soap "Kung Mawawala Ka," and he said, without blinking, that he was 83 years old. That means, he got 11 years older since the last time we spoke to him! (The CCP Encyclopedia of Film lists his date of birth as May 2, 1921, so that makes him 81 years old.)

But that's Eddie Garcia. While other veteran stars refuse to divulge their age, Eddie prefers to play a game with the press, and no one has really complained because the veteran actor is an interesting subject.

MARCOS. Good actress.

Despite his age, whether he's 73 or 83, Eddie remains active on television as the center of the GMA soap "Kung Mawawala Ka," which will soon enter its third season. He has just finished shooting "Bahid" which also stars Assunta De Rossi and Dina Bonnevie and he's ready to shoot "Mano Po," both for Regal Films.

He looks quite fit and sharp, with very few wrinkles on his face. He says he sometimes has to tape for 24 hours for his soap but he's been able to withstand the physical rigors of the taping. Once, he says, he even directed a movie and worked 72 hours straight.

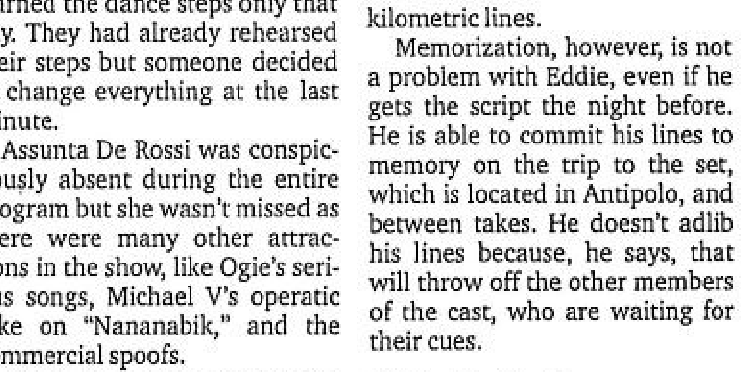
His politician character in the GMA soap develops Alzheimer's disease, which further complicates the tangled storyline. So, is GMA saying goodbye to Eddie by killing him off? Not so, says one of the creative people behind the soap. Alzheimer's is a lingering illness, so the soap can go on for another 10 years and Eddie's character can live on for several seasons. We kidded the actor that one advantage of his illness is that he doesn't have to memorize kilometric lines.

Memorization, however, is not a problem with Eddie, even if he gets the script the night before. He is able to commit his lines to memory on the trip to the set, which is located in Antipolo, and between takes. He doesn't adlib his lines because, he says, that will throw off the other members of the cast, who are waiting for their cues.

Michelle Yeoh in 'The Touch'

If you liked Michelle Yeoh in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," then you should watch "The Touch," another adventure story about a hidden treasure protected by intricate traps and the family that is destined to retrieve it. The movie also stars Jackie Chan, Richard Roxburgh and Ben Chaplin.

The film was shot in several locations in Tibet, Dun Huang, Qingdao and Beijing. Its story revolves around the ancient remains of a Buddhist Holy Man which have been transformed into a sharira, a green glowing rock that can bestow immortality on whoever finds it. Tibetan monks kept the sharira out of sight for thousands of years but made sure a family of well-trained acrobats would one day be able to retrieve it, if it became absolutely necessary.



FAMILY OF MUSICIANS

THE SARREAL family of musical performers recently regaled music lovers with a repertoire of musical classics at the Podium in the second offering of The World of Music, now on its fifth season. The six siblings, aged 17 to 10, play different musical instruments. Five are Namcya prize winners. In photo are (from left), Agnes Dominique—French horn, trumpet; Joseph Gideon—trumpet; Jon Raymond—flute; Ms Zenas Lozada; Vincent Sy; Angelito Pagayon; Robert "Pango"—clarinet, alto sax, bassoon; Jacob Gabriel—saxophone, clarinet, and Ageline Celeste—clarinet, soprano sax.

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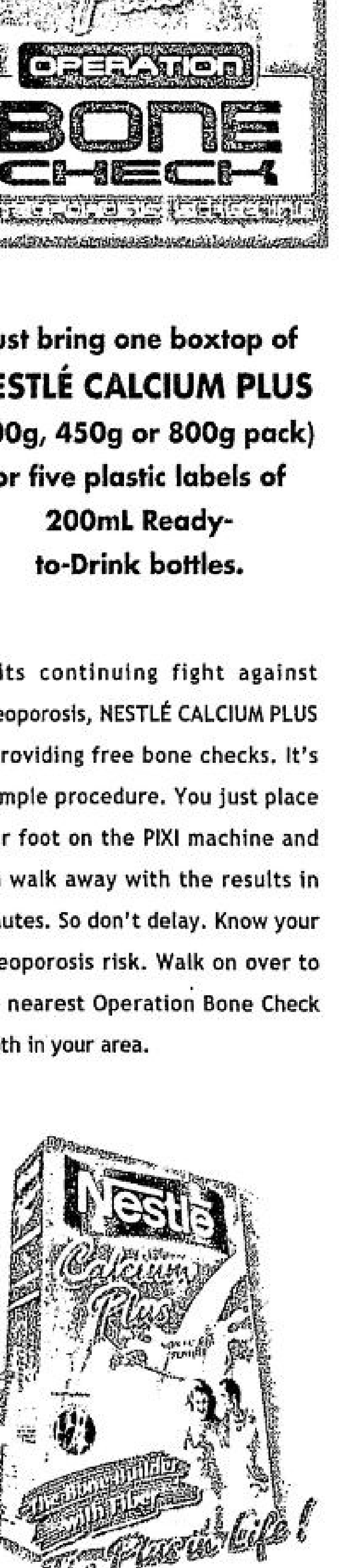
In its continuing fight against osteoporosis, NESTLÉ CALCIUM PLUS is providing free bone checks. It's a simple procedure. You just place your foot on the PIXI machine and you walk away with the results in minutes. So don't delay. Know your osteoporosis risk. Walk on over to the nearest Operation Bone Check booth in your area.



VENUE AND DATE

MANILA	
MERCURY DRUG STORE RETIRO	OCT. 4-6
MERCURY DRUG STORE NEPA Q MART	OCT. 7-9
MERCURY DRUG STORE EDSA CONGRESSIONAL	OCT. 10-12
ROBINSONS GALLERIA	OCT. 11
MERCURY DRUG STORE JAKA PLAZA	OCT. 13-14
MERCURY DRUG STORE ESPA A	OCT. 15-16
MERCURY DRUG STORE COMEMBO	OCT. 17-18
MERCURY DRUG STORE EVER COMMONWEALTH	OCT. 19-21
MERCURY DRUG STORE BINANGONAN	OCT. 22-24
MERCURY DRUG STORE BLUMENTRITT	OCT. 25-27
BIG R CAINTA	OCT. 26
MERCURY DRUG STORE PASIG	OCT. 28-30
LUZON	
LIBERTY COMM L CTR. TABACO	OCT. 5-6
QUICKMART, INC. DARAGA, ALBAY	OCT. 8-13
LIBERTY COMM L CTR., LEGASPI	OCT. 15-24
ROBINSON S CAVITE	OCT. 18
ROBERTSON DEPT. STORE SORSOGON	OCT. 25-29
NORTH MINDANAO	
ORORAMA SUPER CAGAYAN DE ORO	OCT. 5-6
GAISANO MALL CAGAYAN DE ORO	OCT. 10-13
EMILIA SUPERMART ILIGAN	OCT. 15-16
GAISANO ILIGAN	OCT. 17-20
FK ILIGAN	OCT. 22-23
LIAN HONG ILIGAN	OCT. 24-26

Jennifer Lopez blazes trail for other Latino performers

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

THIS week's Q&A:

From Candida Nemenzo of Tagaytay: *"I adore Jennifer Lopez. She can do just about everything—sing, act, dance. Is it true Jennifer and Ben Afleck are going to tie the knot soon?"*

The Latina superstar (of Puerto Rican roots) was born on July 24, 1970 in the Bronx in New York. Her father was a computer technician, her mother a kindergarten teacher, her older sister a housewife who sings opera, and her younger sibling is a DJ and an entertainment correspondent for Warner Bros. TV network.

Jennifer left home when she turned 18 to pursue a career in entertainment, a decision that her mother didn't support.

She found work as one of the "fly girls" (well, think of "Eat Bulaga's" Sex Bomb dancers) in Keenen Ivory Wayans' hit TV show, "In Living Color," for two years, at the time when the show's choreographer was character actress Rosie Perez. She was also one of Janet Jackson's dancers (check her out in Janet's "That's the Way Love Goes" video).

She later landed the lead in the biographical "Selena" (and won a Golden Globe nomination), and followed this up with well-applauded performances in movies like Steven Soderbergh's "Out of Sight" and Oliver Stone's "U-Turn." She appeared in box-office winners like "The Wedding Planner." Then she waxed platinum-selling albums, starting with "On the 6."

She is the highest-paid Latina actress to date (She got $9 million each for "The Wedding Planner" and "Angel Eyes" and $12 million for her movie with Ben Affleck, "Gigli"), and is the first actress to have a movie ("The Wedding Planner") *and* an album hit No. 1 in the same week.

Lopez is the only woman to have been voted FHM's Sexiest Woman of the Year twice (2000 and 2001). She was only No. 5 in 2002, but who's complaining? In December 1999, it was rumored that she got her body (known in her gym as "La Guitara" because of its shape) insured for $1 billion, and her rear end protected with a $300-million policy. That's a very expensive tush, if you ask us!

In May this year, she bought a $9 million house in Miami Beach where her neighbors include the Bee Gees and fellow Latin sensation Ricky Martin. Her movie, "Enough," opened in local theaters last week. Next in line: Wayne Wang's (of "The Joy Luck Club") "Maids in Manhattan" with Ralph Fiennes; "Gigli" with Affleck (where their romance started) and Kevin Smith's "Jersey Girl," with Affleck again, and Liv Tyler.

Yes, there is a reported Valentine's Day wedding in Puerto Rico next year for Jennifer and Ben, a movie "event" said to cost $1.5 million! Let's hope that this marriage will do better than J. Lo's two previous unions, both of which ended in divorce after less than a year.

A tough cookie, this J. Lo is. When she was asked in an interview if she ever felt insecure about anything, she answered: "Only when I'm not prepared, which is almost never." Way to go, girl!

LOPEZ. Her two previous marriages ended in divorce after less than one year.

Maryo J., 30 years and 90 films later

By Gabby L. Reinoso

DELOS REYES. Some surprises up his sleeve.

AS if on cue, the heavy downpour came to a halt as I caught a glimpse of *Direk* Maryo J. delos Reyes making his way into the restaurant. With the heavy traffic building up on the streets, it came as a pleasant surprise that the multi-awarded film director sauntered in punctually for this interview.

Ironic truth

Maryo J.'s last movie, "Laman," was successful despite its R-18 rating. This was sweet vindication for the soft-spoken director, who had to knock on the censors' doors to appeal the X rating they initially gave the movie. While putting the incident behind him, Maryo J. comes up with a ironic truth: "*Gusto natin maniwala na* high-tech *na tayo, pero ang utak natin,* low-tech *pa rin!*"

Perhaps it was not by accident that Maryo's first opus, "High School Circa '65," was a movie about young lives caught up in the moral struggle of the adults around them.

Maryo elicited sterling performances from a host of ensemble actors who breathed life into societal stereotypes with such credibility that some of the movie's scenes reminded viewers of events in their own high school life.

Arena

For the first time, he was thrown into an arena where artistic expression would have to be tempered by business and economic realities. And Maryo was quick to learn. In time, he was turning out a string of commercially viable hits with pertinent themes, like "Annie Batungbakal," and "Bagets."

But before falling into the commercial rut, Maryo admits that his peers who believed in his capability to rise above the box-office formula challenged him. "Tagos ng Dugo," starring Vilma Santos, would be his effective response to that challenge.

The success of "Tagos" confirms the notion that, once balance is attained, quality need not suffer in favor of commercialism. Nowadays, Maryo continues to make commercial films, but he has a couple of surprises up his sleeves.

"I realized that good materials would come to me, but when they do, it takes time to distill them and make them work. Maybe some of them need fine-tuning and adjustments, but when I hit upon good material, I pitch for it and work hard to bring it to life onscreen.

"'Ang Paraiso ni Efren' is one such material," says Maryo. The movie was a look into the world of gay relationships and starred hunk Anton Bernardo and Alan Paule.

Three generations

One script that has come Maryo's way and reduced him to tears is Michiko Yamamoto's "Magnifico Magikero." The movie provides Maryo the privilege of directing three generations of the country's finest actors, including Gloria Romero, Celia Rodriguez, Lorna Tolentino, Amy Austria, Albert Martinez, Danilo Barrios, Allyson VII, Jiro Manio and Dindin Llanera.

But in the meantime, after megging some 90 movies in three decades, Maryo has put another film in the can: "Bedtime Stories" launches Maricar de Mesa in her bid for sexy stardom via its trilogy of "themes and styles" as Maryo describes it. The movie, which tackles sadomasochism, necrophilia and the drug Ecstacy, is a shoo-in as another controversy-laden film.

What about a remake of "High School Circa '65"? "Yes and no," Maryo says. "No, because I do not want to repeat myself. And yes, I would consider a remake but maybe set it in another era, perhaps 1975, the time when our country was experimenting with martial law," he muses, a mischievous smile crossing his face, and eyes lighting up. One can only guess what the man is thinking!

It covers her maternity expenses.
And her post-partum slimming program.
Mari Gomez, Interior Designer
MARI GOMEZ
BEHIND EVERY GREAT WOMAN IS A DOLCE VITA

The work of Mari Gomez is all about using limited resources to create a décor masterpiece. As a mother, she also manages her household budget so her family can live well without spending too much. But with her present OB/Gyne fees and medicine, her expenses shoot up.

Good thing, her Dolce Vita takes the load off her back. It's the newest offering from AIG Credit Cards that helps women like Mari take charge of their expenses and their lives. The Maternity Benefits cover hospital and delivery charges up to P5,000. Other female health services include free lab tests like ultrasound, pap smear, urinalysis or a blood sugar count. After giving birth, her baby is entitled to two free visits to the pediatrician. Special fitness packages allow her to exercise in top gyms at discounted packages. To refresh her skin, she can see a dermatologist free of charge on the first visit.

Without a doubt, Dolce Vita complements Mari's life perfectly. Let it help you design yours with the same elegance and flair.

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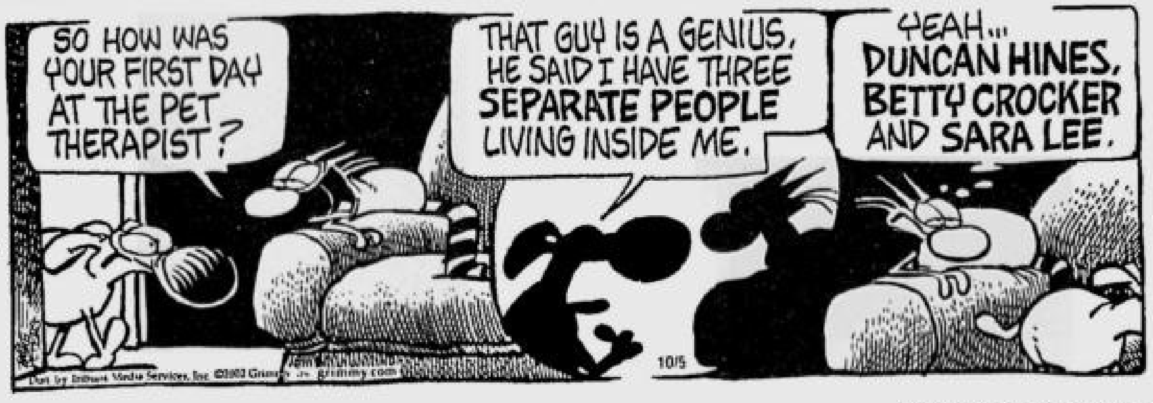
Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 1853 Series of 2002

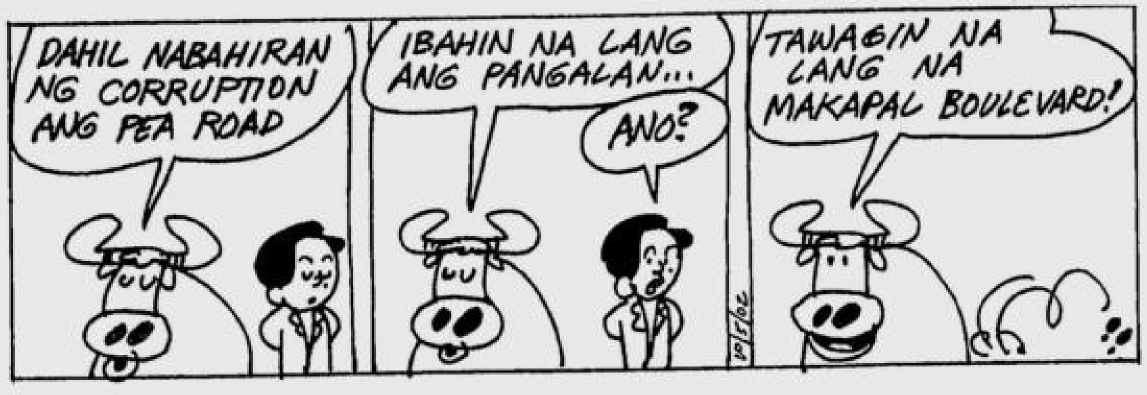
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


SO HOW WAS YOUR FIRST DAY AT THE PET THERAPIST?
THAT GUY IS A GENIUS. HE SAID I HAVE THREE SEPARATE PEOPLE LIVING INSIDE ME.
YEAH... DUNCAN HINES, BETTY CROCKER AND SARA LEE.
10/5
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc. ©2002 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com

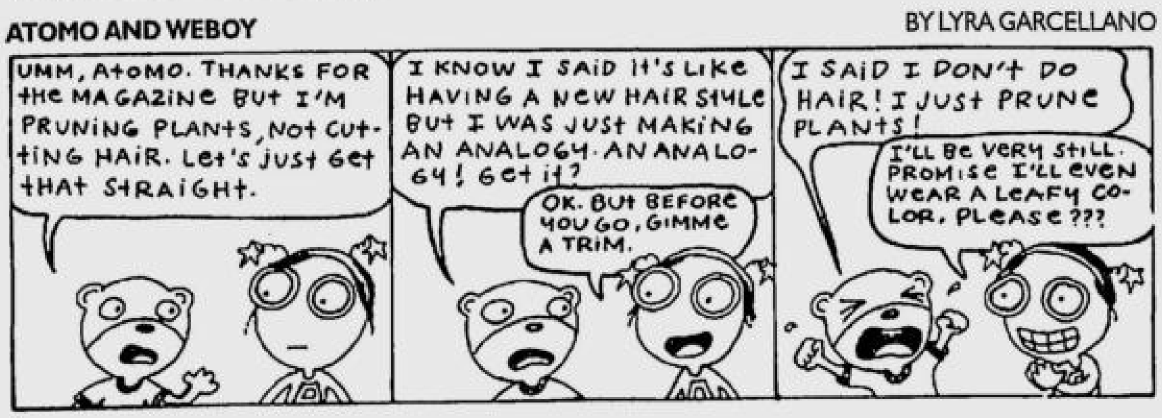
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAHIL NABAHIRAN NG CORRUPTION ANG PEA ROAD
IBAHIN NA LANG ANG PANGALAN...
ANO?
TAWAGIN NA LANG NA MAKAPAL BOULEVARD!
10/5/02

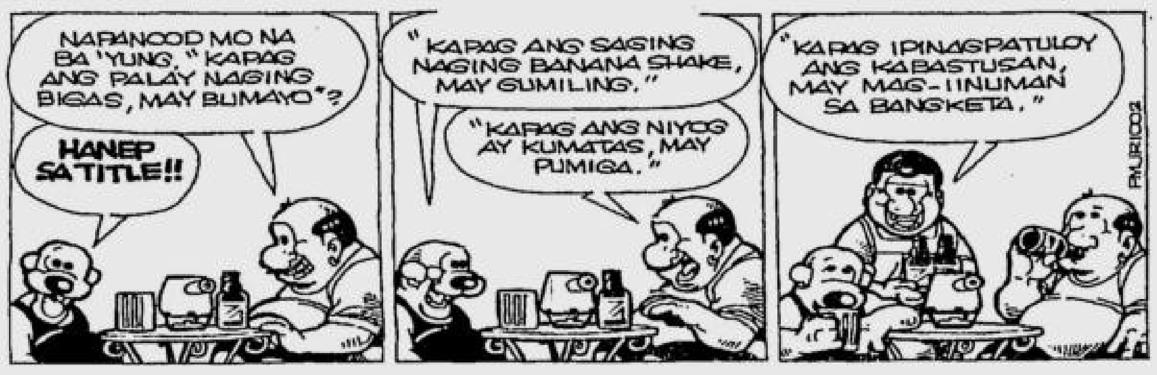
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


UMM, ATOMO. THANKS FOR THE MAGAZINE BUT I'M PRUNING PLANTS, NOT CUTTING HAIR. LET'S JUST GET THAT STRAIGHT.
I KNOW I SAID IT'S LIKE HAVING A NEW HAIR STYLE BUT I WAS JUST MAKING AN ANALOGY. AN ANALOGY! GET IT?
OK. BUT BEFORE YOU GO, GIMME A TRIM.
I SAID I DON'T DO HAIR! I JUST PRUNE PLANTS!
I'LL BE VERY STILL. PROMISE I'LL EVEN WEAR A LEAFY COLOR. PLEASE???

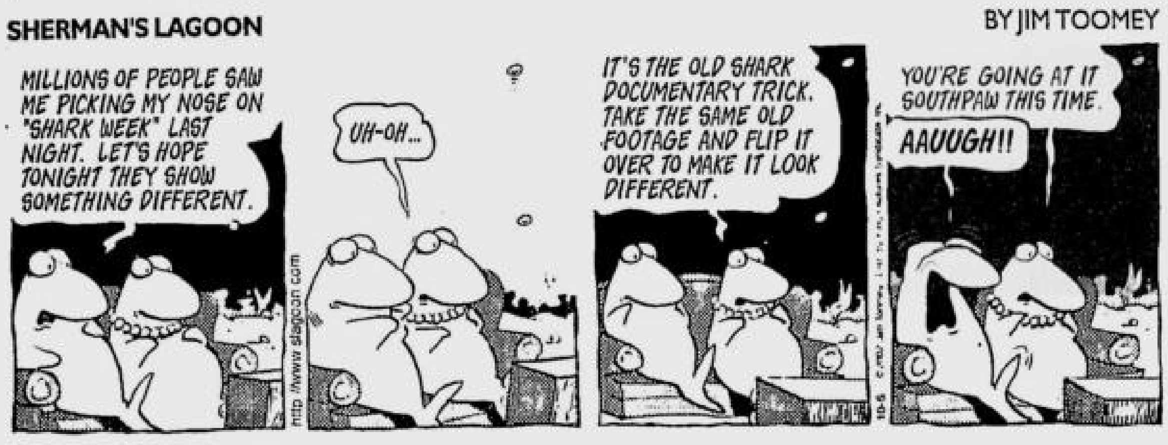
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAPANOOD MO NA BA 'YUNG, "KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS, MAY BUMAYO"?
HANEP SA TITLE!!
"KAPAG ANG SAGING NAGING BANANA SHAKE, MAY GUMILING."
"KAPAG ANG NIYOG AY KUMATAS, MAY PUMIGA."
"KAPAG IPINAGPATULOY ANG KABASTUSAN, MAY MAG-IINUMAN SA BANGKETA."
PMJR1002

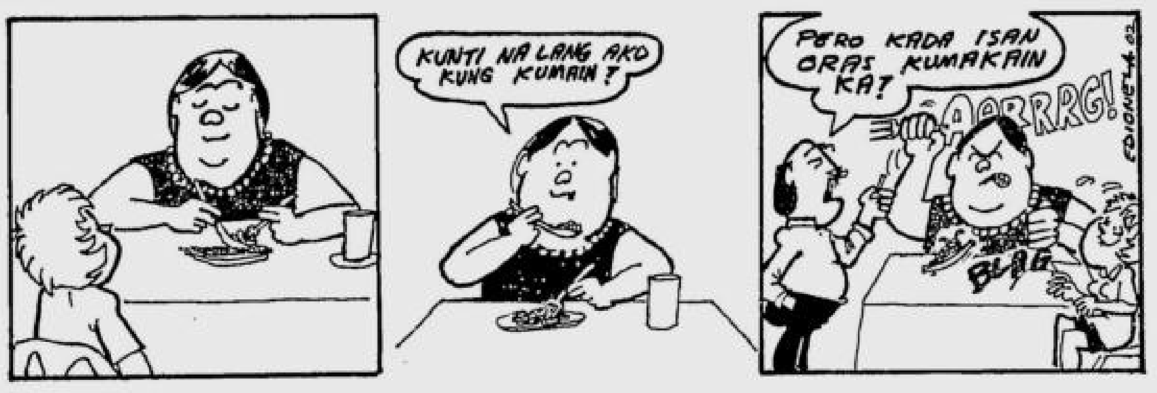
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


MILLIONS OF PEOPLE SAW ME PICKING MY NOSE ON "SHARK WEEK" LAST NIGHT. LET'S HOPE TONIGHT THEY SHOW SOMETHING DIFFERENT.
UH-OH...
IT'S THE OLD SHARK DOCUMENTARY TRICK. TAKE THE SAME OLD FOOTAGE AND FLIP IT OVER TO MAKE IT LOOK DIFFERENT.
YOU'RE GOING AT IT SOUTHPAW THIS TIME.
AAUUGH!!
http://www.slagoon.com
10-5

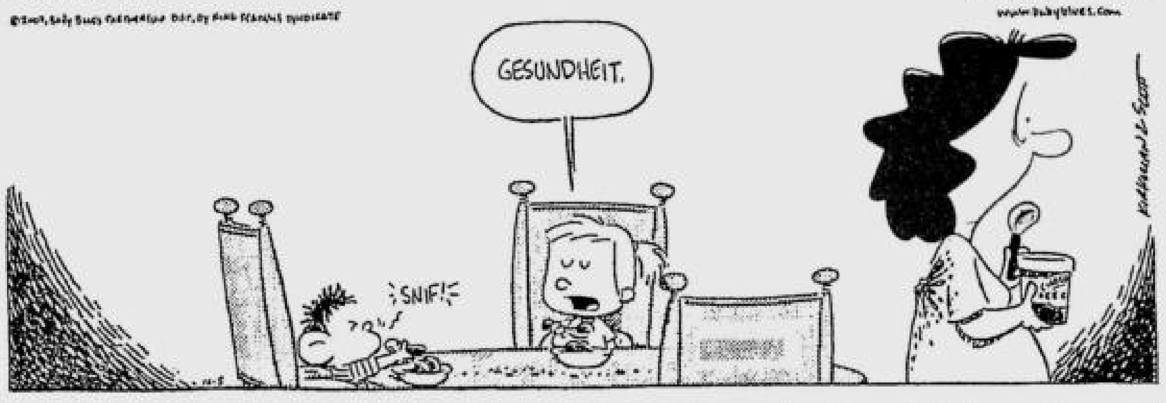
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


KUNTI NA LANG AKO KUNG KUMAIN?
PERO KADA ISAN ORAS KUMAKAIN KA?
AARRRG!
BLAG
EDIONELA.02

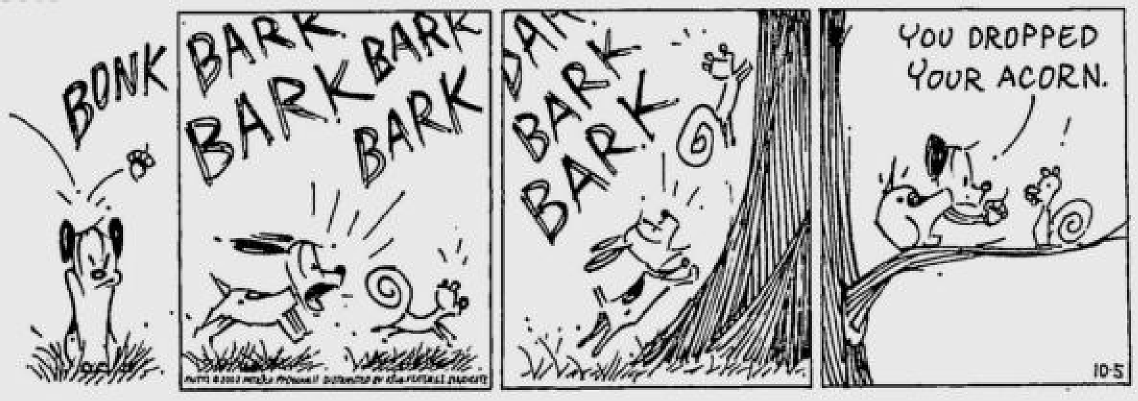
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


www.babyblues.com
GESUNDHEIT.
SNIF!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BONK
BARK BARK BARK BARK
BARK BARK BARK
YOU DROPPED YOUR ACORN.
10-5

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Raquel Welch, Bob Newhart, Carol Lawrence
Happy Birthday: You have a mission this year -- to make headway regardless of the sacrifices you have to make. Prepare to make a move that will help you move on to better things. Set your sights high and you will acquire everything you set your mind to. Your numbers are 17, 22, 24, 36, 41, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It's a good day to get out of the house. Since you're outgoing and quick-witted, you're likely to attract others readily. Play by the rules and you will stay ahead of the game.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's not a good time to ask for favors. Even your lover will be reluctant to accommodate you. Take time to relax today; you could use the rest.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's a day for a lot of movement. You'll bump into new potential friends or lovers. Prepare yourself -- some stamina will be required if you wish to keep up the fast pace.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): People will be unpleasant on the home front today. Be responsible at home even if it seems meaningless for a moment. Financial gain is in the air.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Try not to overreact to transitions in your private life. Listen intently to the advice of good friends. Put your energy into doing nice things for others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Avoid focusing too much on the affairs of others. Concentrate on finding ways to better appreciate yourself. You may realize that a child's insight might divulge some incredible information.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Involving yourself in organizations you find worthwhile may lead you to a person who you find emotionally compelling. Be patient and don't be too quick to be a follower. You will make a much bigger impact if you do your own thing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Expect others to slow you down or hold you back today. Keep your intentions to yourself, especially in the workplace. If someone gets wind of what you are doing, it may be harmful to your position.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do your research and you can rest assured that you are making the right choices today. Be social with stimulating people. It's a good day to listen and learn.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Some scrutiny is necessary regarding your financial affairs. You may want to reallocate some money, change some investments or just tighten your purse strings. Someone may be quietly brooding because of something you did or said.

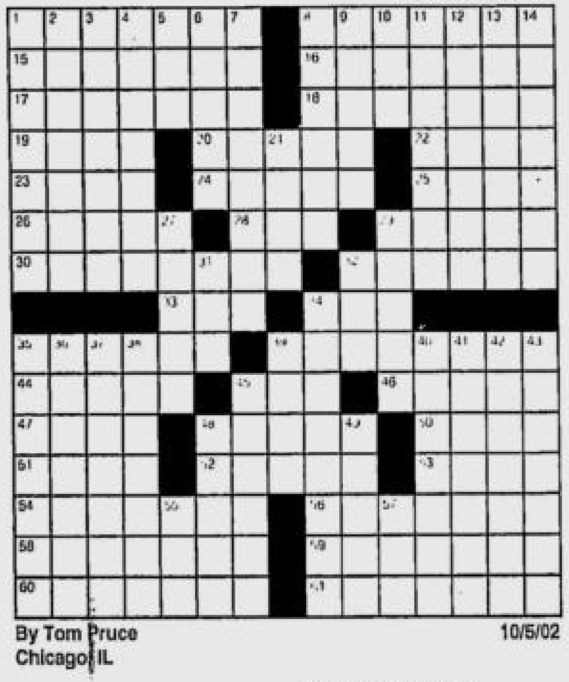
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Since love is on your mind, it's a good time to be romantic. Plan a special evening. The time to join forces with someone special is now. Don't think about it; make your move.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You're likely to meet a potential partner at work, but take it slowly. Also, try to be prudent with your money; overspending has been a problem in the past and will be in the future.

Birthday Baby: You will have a very infectious and pleasing manner. You will be able to spark enthusiasm and you will always be the first to get your feet wet. You will take chances but you will always do your research first.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

10/5/02

ACROSS
1 Trick pitches
8 Island in the Saronic Gulf
15 Sunshade
16 Chicago newspaper
17 Quarantine
18 Senior citizen
19 Deliver a diatribe
20 Lift and toss
22 Infield cover, briefly
23 Sailor's saint
24 Infiltrators
25 Place a stake
26 King and Alda
28 Taxing agcy.
29 Nonviolent protest
30 With good judgment
32 Where Oz isn't
33 Beam of light
34 Open container
35 Tapped lightly
39 Purses
44 Fundamental character of a culture
45 Half a breath mint?
46 Bolivian capital
47 Was in debt
48 Weasels' kin
50 Examine closely but quickly
51 North of Paris?
52 Madagascar primate
53 Look after
54 Emerald Isle
56 Los Angeles suburb
58 Intrinsic nature
59 Portlier
60 Soup or salad, e.g.
61 Sleeping sickness carriers

DOWN
1 Bridal wreath and meadowsweet
2 University in Philadelphia
3 Triathlon champion
4 Timothy and Abby
5 NASA's ISS partner
6 Some IRAs
7 Soporiferously
8 Kitchen appliances
9 Where van Gogh painted like mad?
10 Cap
11 Refrain
12 Genetic deviants
13 Sluggishness
14 Snake constellation
21 Well-ventilated
27 Fathers
29 Evens by smoothing
31 Unpleasant
32 Relatives
34 Upright part of a bench
35 Showy garden blooms
36 Under the most negative circumstances
37 St. __ of Avila
38 New walker
39 Posterior
40 Escape violently
41 Stresses
42 Beneficiary
43 Transmitters
45 Fire starter
48 Cut into small pieces
49 Delta deposits
55 Opposite of a syn.
57 One Stooge

Friday's Puzzle Solved

W	A	L	D	O	■	C	U	B	A	N	■	B	O	R
E	L	T	O	N	■	A	N	O	L	E	■	O	N	O
T	E	D	W	I	L	L	I	A	M	S	■	S	H	U
■	■	■	S	O	S	A	■	R	A	T	A	T	A	T
S	P	L	E	N	D	I	D	■	■	S	C	O	N	E
K	E	Y	■	■	■	S	O	A	P	■	E	N	D	S
I	S	R	A	E	L	■	T	W	E	E	T	■	■	■
■	T	E	D	D	Y	B	A	L	L	G	A	M	E	■
■	■	■	A	D	L	E	R	■	L	O	L	I	T	A
A	A	R	P	■	E	N	D	O	■	■	■	T	R	I
B	E	E	T	S	■	■	S	P	L	I	N	T	E	R
O	D	D	S	A	R	E	■	T	I	R	O	■	■	■
D	I	S	■	L	E	F	T	F	I	E	L	D	E	R
E	L	O	■	L	I	T	H	O	■	N	A	N	N	Y
S	E	X	■	E	N	S	O	R	■	E	N	A	T	E

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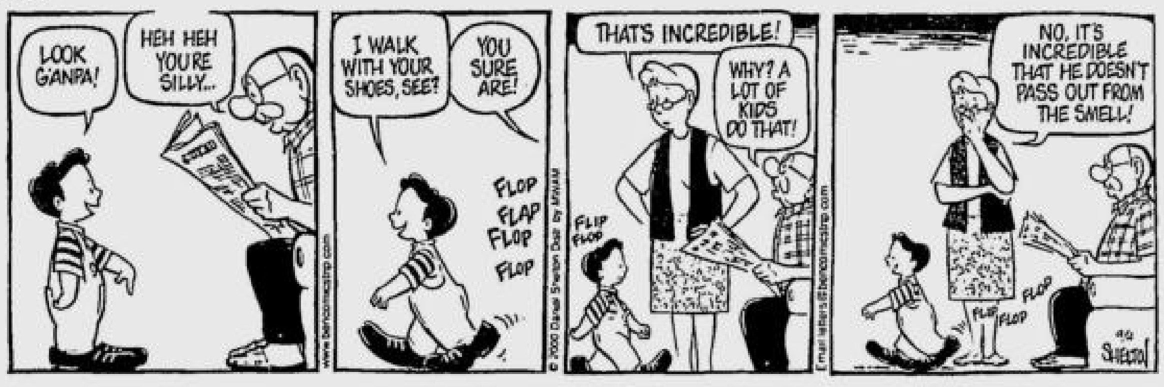
10/5/02

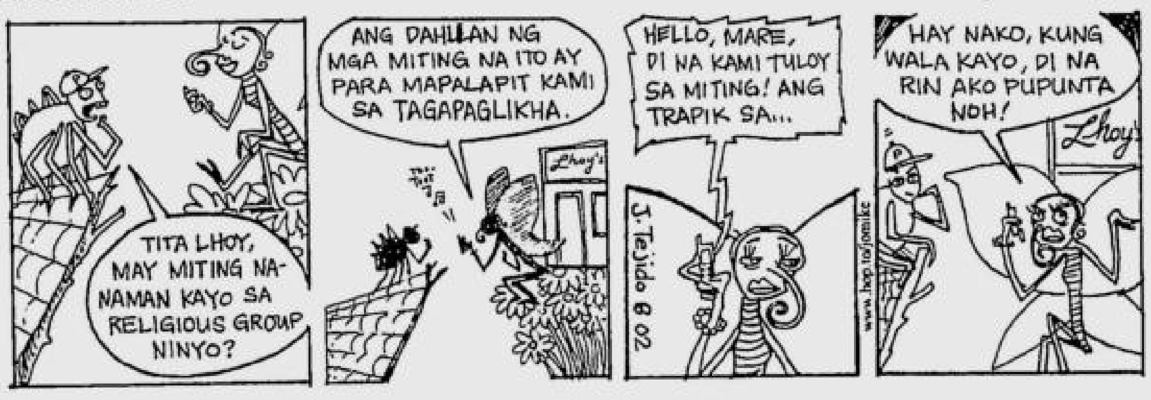
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


LOOK GANPA!
HEH HEH YOU'RE SILLY...
I WALK WITH YOUR SHOES, SEE?
YOU SURE ARE!
FLOP FLAP FLOP FLOP
FLIP FLOP
THAT'S INCREDIBLE!
WHY? A LOT OF KIDS DO THAT!
NO, IT'S INCREDIBLE THAT HE DOESN'T PASS OUT FROM THE SMELL!
FLIP FLOP FLOP
www.bencomicstrip.com

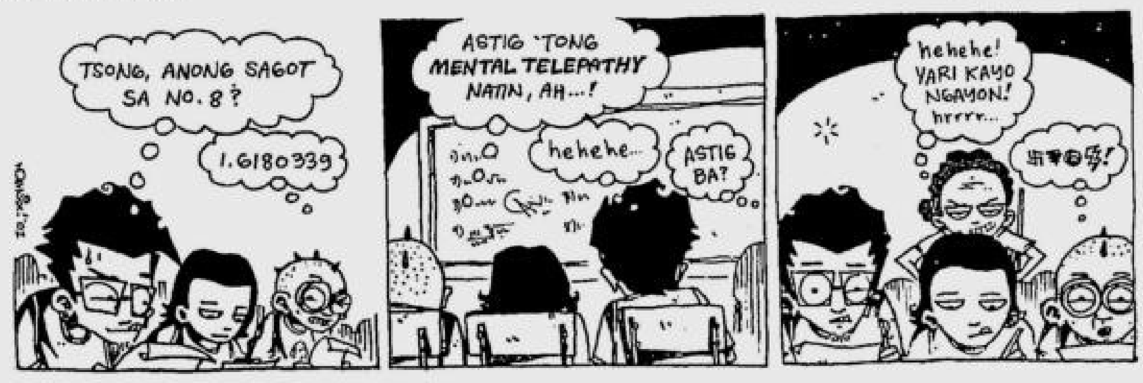
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TITA LHOY, MAY MITING NANAMAN KAYO SA RELIGIOUS GROUP NINYO?
ANG DAHILAN NG MGA MITING NA ITO AY PARA MAPALAPIT KAMI SA TAGAPAGLIKHA.
Lhoy's
HELLO, MARE, DI NA KAMI TULOY SA MITING! ANG TRAPIK SA...
J. Tejido 8 02
HAY NAKO, KUNG WALA KAYO, DI NA RIN AKO PUPUNTA NOH!
Lhoy's

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, ANONG SAGOT SA NO. 8?
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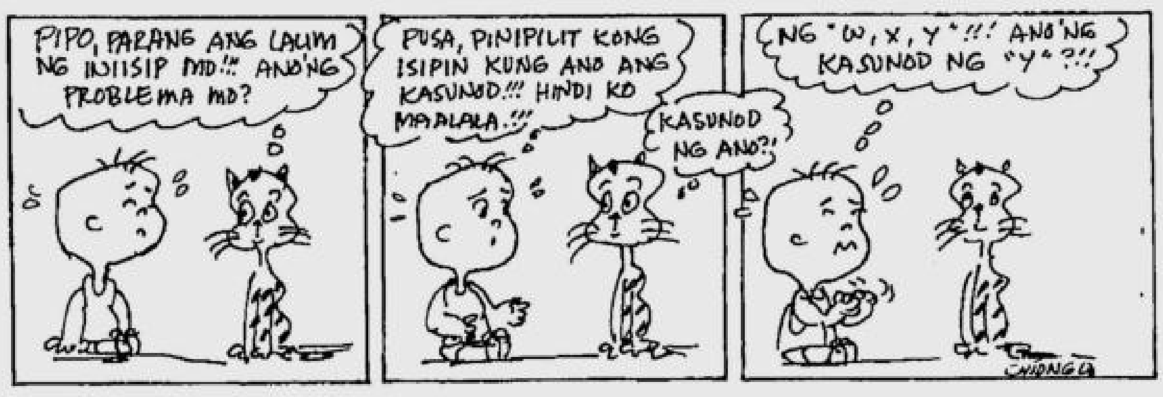
ASTIG 'TONG MENTAL TELEPATHY NATIN, AH...!
hehehe...
ASTIG BA?
hehehe! YARI KAYO NGAYON! hrrrr...

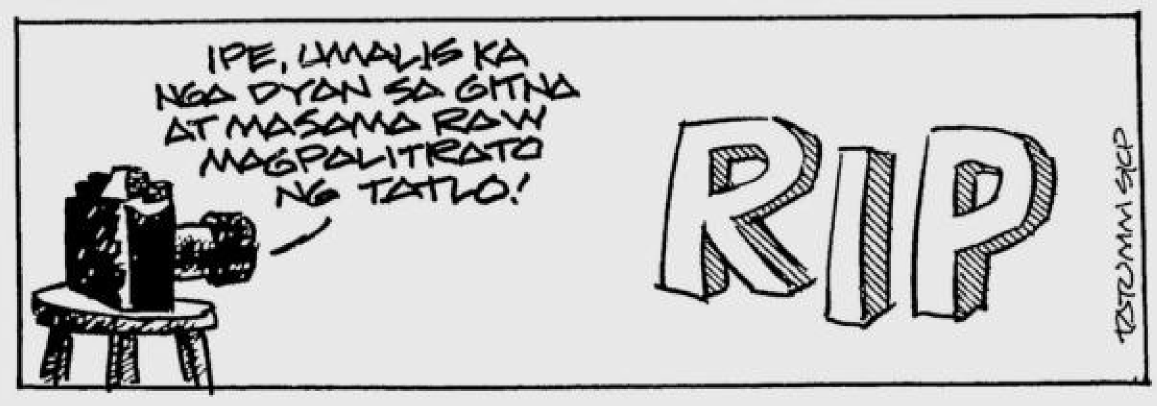
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PIPO, PARANG ANG LALIM NG INIISIP MO!!! ANO'NG PROBLEMA MO?
PUSA, PINIPILIT KONG ISIPIN KUNG ANO ANG KASUNOD!!! HINDI KO MAALALA!!!
KASUNOD NG ANO?!
NG "W, X, Y"!!! ANO'NG KASUNOD NG "Y"?!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


IPE, UMALIS KA NGA DYAN SA GITNA AT MASAMA RAW MAGPALITRATO NG TATLO!
RIP
TATUMMI SKP

Eddie Romero assesses current state of Filipino films

By Ronald G. Mangubat

"I'M SUPPOSED to be retired already," director Eddie Romero declares when the idea for an interview is broached to him. A few days later, he welcomes me to his home and I get the impression that he is still far from the sedate retired life that he claims to lead. For one, his phone does not stop ringing. He tells me he has some meetings to attend, and there are things on his head that he is dying to write about.

His eyes light up the moment you ask about movies and television. He raves about some films he saw at the recently concluded Cinemanila and says he has taken an interest in watching "Ally McBeal" and "NYPD Blue" on TV.

Classic films

The director of such thought-provoking classic films like "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?" and "Agila" started out as a teenage screenwriter before World War II. Persuaded by another great director, Gerry de Leon, that he could make a living out of being a writer, he also tried directing films even though he did not know how to speak Tagalog.

After directing some 50 Filipino films and 24 American movies, Eddie Romero is currently happy to be an adviser of the Film Academy of the Philippines and a member of the Board of Trustees of Mowelfund. Q and A:

How do you assess Philippine movies today?

I don't think much has changed, really. It's still audience-oriented. The great problem of the Philippines is its culture. A government is only a reflection of prevailing values. In other countries, there has been a tradition of social consolidation—Thailand, Malaysia, etc. We always have been a bunch of tribes, often hostile to one another. For a long time, we were not interested in one another's dialect.

When I was a child in Dumaguete, nobody spoke Tagalog. And it was only over the last generation that Tagalog finally spread out. And what did that? The movies! How come the peasants of Tawi-Tawi spoke better Tagalog than the aristocrats of Manila? What did that? The movies!

Wasted asset

I think that's a wasted asset because our producers are devoting more time making motion pictures for their peculiar moral codes instead of instilling self-awareness and self-reliance. Sadly, our current films are so defensive about being Filipino.

But everyone's been saying that the local movie industry is dying.

Well, it's always been dying. In fact it's been dying since its very appearance in the mid-'20s because of the amusement tax. I think this became a policy in 1917. And we have not abolished it yet.

What changes have happened to the Pinoy moviegoers?

The movie audience is basically between 11 and 23 years old—that's 70 percent of them. And they are still products of the same culture, although *ang mga moda, nag-iiba*. But the effects of the *moda* are still superficial. Permissiveness is in vogue and the population is increasing. It really takes time to develop an audience.

What drove you to make historical films?

My interest in history is really a desire to understand what is happening now. That's why I've always been fascinated with history.

Satire

I did "Ganito Kami Noon..." as a satire, but I wanted to elaborate more, and so I did "Agila," which had four generations. And that is what the current TV series "Diwa" is also all about.

Your films also deal with issues of social justice?

I'm one of the few people in the industry whom Lino Brocka never quarreled with. I told him that the root of social injustice is not the uneven distribution of wealth, it's the calculated encouragement of dependence. And that to me is what ought to be attacked.

Rizal saw this problem. A political upheaval wouldn't solve it. One of the reasons why I did "Noli Me Tangere" as a TV series rather than a film is because in films, you have the ill-starred lovers, you have the wicked priest, and you don't have the social milieu. Well, the nine and a half hours of that TV series is the complete "Noli Me Tangere."

How powerful is the film medium?

It's the most influential medium of mass communication in the world. It's far more intimate than any other medium. It gets into your personal life.

Church

Especially in the movie theater, it's just like going to church. You go into a dark place, you sit there and you subject yourself to whatever emotional or intellectual stimuli come from the screen.

What are your views on film censorship?

I'm against any form of censorship. I think that's also one of the mandates of the NCCA. But abolishing censorship is impossible in

EDDIE/ G10

ROMERO. Started writing screenplays when he was still in his teens.

Humility in victory

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

WHEN it comes to eating, athletes are some of the most fascinating individuals to observe. One would not be surprised if their stomachs were up to their knees. Downing four Big Macs is not unusual for many of them.

Losing weight

Many decades ago, I used to swim competitively for the State University. I could finish a whole loaf of ham and egg sandwiches—a total of seven sandwiches! Losing weight was never in my vocabulary.

A dear friend, JP Paz, the manager of the UP Junior Fighting Maroons, shares some humorous observations: After a game with the team, for example, they go to a place like Ma Mon Luk. The bill for the whole team of 12 and about four others is P3,500! Some of their meals or snacks at McDo can cost as much as P4,000. One would think these guys were buying shares in the fast food chain.

I remember, I once catered a function for 30. I prepared food for 100—gone! All of it. Question is, "Has any of this eating gotten the team anywhere?" The answer is a resounding *yes*!

Miracle

Ever since the "birth" of the University of the Philippines in 1908, when the Oblation was still in Pampers, our Junior Basketball team never achieved the miracle that happened last week. It was a David and Goliath story. The UP Junior Fighting Maroons won the UAAP Championships in straight games, beating the Ateneo Blue Eaglets, a much taller team.

They're humble, that's what I observed about this hungry bunch. In the dugout, their prayers were not to win but to play their best. They prayed for themselves *and* their opponents, that no one would get hurt or injured.

They never questioned the calls of the referee, nor were they allowed to look at the score or the crowd. They were focused. Their coach, Lito Vergara, set the example of humility even in victory.

Win-loss records

During the victory party, many of us ex-UP High varsity players were asked to share what kind of win-loss records we had during our time. Most shared that if the game were "*pierde-gana*" (a game where losers win), then we were champions!

It is for this reason that all of us former players knelt and bowed in front of these Goliath conquerors. Yet, during all this, they remained humble. The character of true champions!

There are two reasons for this piece: One is to share anecdotes about the appetites of these young athletes, and the other is to call on all UP alumni to support our basketball teams, both seniors and juniors. Because we here at UP have made a point!

So, when you see these young athletes running continuously around the court, remember how much food goes into making them do what they do best.

Happy eating!

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No Shades of Gray

A MANAGEMENT IN BLACK

> ‘Our non-compromise is our statement of faith and conviction’

THESE TWO attractive women, who talk almost incessantly on every subject thrown at them, are often portrayed as the "witches" and "villainesses" in that fairyland called show biz.

As talent managers, sisters-in-law Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano and Gina Valenciano-Martinez, who jointly run Manila Genesis Entertainment and Management, Inc. often "stand in between" their roster of talents and the horde of people who desperately want a piece of each of their artists.

"I've been called a lot of names. The painful reality of celebrity representation is being dubbed many things you are not," says Angeli, also a board member of CBN-ASIA and Operation Blessing. She constantly gets the flak for being seemingly over-protective with Genesis artists, which after all is her main job. "We respect the convictions of our artists and do not impose our own but encourage them to fight for what they believe in. "Some people take it against us. They think we're difficult. We are equally frustrated but contracts are made to be honored not broken!"

Most of the negative things said about Genesis stem from "misinterpretation" or "lack of information" or things "said out of context" on the part of producers or even members of the media. The falsehood is often propagated because of a preconceived perception.

One fine example is the way the media treated Angeli 18 years ago for getting pregnant and involved with Gary, when the artist referred to as "Mr. Pure Energy" was still beginning his career in 1984. Angeli, a student leader, sportswoman and a BSBA marketing major from the University of the Philippines, then 24 years old, reacted to the negative stories that drove her nearly to take her own life. "That was the absolute worst time in my life. My family was once the model family of the year for La Salle Greenhills!

"The notion was that Angeli was the bad girl who got herself pregnant and stole Gary from her younger sister," says Gina, a former Penthouse Seven dancer and member of the Hotlegs. "They were on for two months! Gary apparently fell in love with me first but I had a boyfriend and so I matched him with my sister! It was a merry-go-round. Then he told me he loved me. The stress was horrible then because many judged me without interviewing me. God is so good.

"With what happened to Angeli— pregnancy and all that—there's a stigma with her being the wife of Gary. She became a villain to so many people. The stigma has rubbed off through the years. It has not been easy for her. We have had to deal with that for a long time," says Gina who has always been quick to defend her sister-in-law and partner.

So much for the Bad Press. Let's turn the table around and try to see Angeli and Gina, these supposedly "villainous" women, in a different light—the perspective of heroines, the characters who suffered much but in the end found both reward and vindication.

"Vindication" to Angeli is an "18-year solid marriage to Gary with 3 beautiful and talented children, a 17-year-old company, and a partner (Gina) who has been with me for 17 years. And of course, the artists and staff who continue to remain with us."

The GENESIS roster is one of the most respected in the country. They represent many of the best singers, actors in theater, films and television, hosts, and are known to be meticulous negotiators.

Rewards for working in show biz land come in many forms for both Gina and Angeli, who somehow have gathered enough years and experience to make them tough, formidable and sharp to stand firm and principled in the loose entertainment world, where personal lives are viewed like fishbowls.

"There is still so much to learn and we are blessed with many colleagues who are always there to encourage us when we make mistakes and who help us out all the time," Angeli proudly says.

"I have learned not to believe everything I read or hear, Angeli quips. I always want to give the benefit of the doubt. I have made mistakes in the past judging based on write-ups or rumor." "For example, Ruffa Gutierrez is one of the sweetest human beings I have ever met. What a fantastic friend. I said sorry to her for judging her. Respect, integrity and word of honor are sorely lacking in the business. Responsible journalism as well."

As managers and at the same time having celebrity husbands, Angeli describes the two of them as suffering from a "husband disease." Together they oversee the management of the careers of their husbands as well as over 30 more celebrities.

"We have a staff and a team of managers that oversee the various aspects of their careers from live gigs, to television and films, to PR, to endorsements but it helps that we are married to artists so we understand other artists as well. Multitasking is a must. It is not as specialized as it is in the US. *Dito* we have to do everything including look for clothes sponsors, but I feel we owe the artists much more. Bookings, we owe them more bookings," relates Angeli.

Both women have to contend with the age gap between them and their husbands. Leo Martinez is older than Gina. But this has not posed any differences as a matter of fact, Gina, a mother of three, handles all international inquiries and logistical requirements in the company as well as visa and immigration concerns, and still makes time to prepare the clothes of her husband for tapings and take her kids to the doctor. Meanwhile, Angeli also has her share of coping with a younger husband with a diabetic condition and her hands full with work. She juggles her schedule between being a mom to three kids as well, being head of Genesis, a management consultant at her father's marble company and the administrator of the Shining Light Foundation.

"Leo sleeps earlier so by 10 p.m. Gina and Leo are in bed. With Gary and me, the night's just beginning. It's a struggle for me that I sleep the time that I do. I have no choice because of Gary's condition. I have to monitor him also. I can get by with 4 hours of sleep sometimes. So Genesis is open 24 hours a day," says Angeli with a laugh.

Fun, uproarious interactions and sisterly concern describe the working relationship between Gina and Angeli. The two mischievous partners sometimes destress by texting each other jokes and funny messages.

"We call each other ten times a day, and email each other like crazy," they both laugh. Once they even locked Angeli's door during a stressful day and read jokes in a joke book and giggled for about twenty minutes. They text each other when they watch funny production numbers on television or scold each other when one of them makes a mistake. "Prayer has also kept us strong and grounded though. That is one thing that is non-negotiable for us. We pray about everything," states Angeli.

"Our working relationship is 'terrible'," says an amused Gina. "My gosh, we always argue. That's why Genesis is still here. Angeli handles the business and marketing and finance side, while I'm into production. I put a project together, prepare the budget and then give it to Angeli. Here, go find the money." "And then we fight about the budgets. I am always trying to bring it down! Then I get accused of being difficult!" says Angeli. "I'm easy but Angeli has more patience, and everyone is her friend!!!!" says Gina.

"I'm a no-nonsense person. "And then my temper is bad. It's better that she handles certain issues," says Gina.

"Latin kasi sila ni Gary. But Gina is so efficient. Too efficient. For me, Gina has an armor of steel covering a heart of gold, sheer gold," says Angeli. "Many have tried to create intrigues between us and sometimes we believe but God has preserved our team. Love and honesty prevailed."

See how they compliment and complement each other?

These female dynamic duo of the show biz land enjoy their work immensely, not only managing talents and mounting concert and entertainment projects together, but in being able to interact effectively with both talents and staff. Gina says most of their meetings with artists take so long because the artists do instant performances that amuse the Genesis staff, aside from sharing show biz "tsismis."

"We call Nanette Inventor the chairman of Genesis. She's in the office all the time. Whether it's to write scripts, practice her songs or just visit." Candy drops by and tries her latest stand-up act before the staff. Newcomer, Pam G, breezes in to discuss her repertoire with Jaye Bautista for her sets. Jamie Rivera drops off her birthday gifts and passes by the Accounting Department to check on her royalties. Mandy Ochoa meets with VP Paeng Altavas to discuss his concerns while Ruffa Gutierrez checks the media list for her presscon. Artist Development Consultant Arsi Baltazar meets with "Lumen" Jan Isaac while new act R & B singer Duncan Ramos rehearses in the conference room. PR Consultant Jackie Maniquis huddles with Jing and Joey and prepares for the supplement while VP-Operations Irene Mamangon checks on the system of contract retrieval and the computer requirements while reading the text of Anthony Pangilinan about his Parenting Convention.

"You know what's nice about Genesis, we're really like a family. One of the things that keep me going is the staff that has been with us from the beginning. Just today, my former nursemaid, who's now an employee of our company called to thank me for including her child in our health care program. On my birthday, they give me cards. And lots of flowers, and gifts. They print out banners. What a blessing." says Angeli.

In 1984, she called Gina, who was then residing in the US to help her in managing Gary at Classified Entertainment, a company she formed with Sandra Chavez and some friends. Angeli had introduced Gary to Sandra and produced Gary's first Tavern concert with her savings and did personal management for some time for the budding artist. But she felt she needed help big-time. Gary said big-sister Gina was the person he wanted. Gina flew to Manila. That year Angeli gave birth. While Angeli was busy with her new family, Gina and the Classified team handled Gary's career. Gary's career soared. Then they decided to move on and Genesis was formed in 1986 by Angeli and Gina to manage Gary's career. Eventually many other artists joined their stable. Gary then formed GV Productions to handle his personal management and productions. Ayen Garcia and Vina Pareja together with Recording and Publishing expert Mike Jamir oversee his recording, touring, and personal schedules today.

The formation of Genesis comes in tandem with Angeli's and Gary's "renewal with the Lord," the guiding principle that "runs" the company. Although Gina says that they do not require "renewal" among artists, they have certain limitations: their artists won't go bold, or use sex or violence to promote themselves. "The concept when you say you're renewed or born again, santo ka na dapat. People don't realize that we still make mistakes," says Gina. They partner with artists who are both God-fearing and aiming for perfection in their craft.

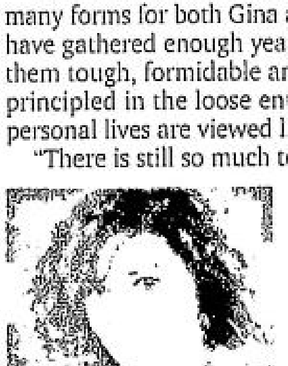
"We have a mission statement, that we will use the talent that God has given to us for his glory. It's a guide that we want excellence and integrity in the projects we choose to do. We are just pipes after all. The Lord is the source of all talent and blessings. So we tell the artists better un-clog your pipes so the floodgates will open!!!!" says Angeli. Their company also practices tithing where a portion of their gross income goes to the Shining Light Foundation.

Angeli hopes for a more professional show biz industry. An industry that will rise above issues, lessen conflict of interest and "just unite" for the greater good of all. "We have the best singers, directors and artists in Asia. We should stop the 'puwede na' attitude and go for 'greater things.' Why producers settle for mediocrity when we can excel beats me. Go for quality and pay your taxes."

"A lot of people have gotten jaded in this industry and it's sad. Because once you're jaded, you lose a part of your soul," says Angeli. She realizes though that the industry has a lot of limitations given the economic situation today and the ills that plague the industry. She borrows a phrase written on a book she read in an airplane..."In matters of principle, stand firm as a rock. In matters of taste, go with the flow." The statement sums up a part of her personality, a personality reflected on the rest of Genesis.

"While we aim for greatness, we do not want to step on others so we just want to do great things and create positive change within the sphere of influence we have," adds Angeli. "We all have our quirks. We go with the flow, but not necessarily compromise," adds Gina, almost unison with Angeli.

Gina and Angeli's clothes by MIX; Make up by Denny Tan; & Bong Cruz; Hilda Koronel's pic courtesy of Mr. & Ms.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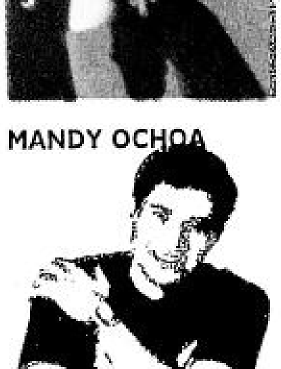
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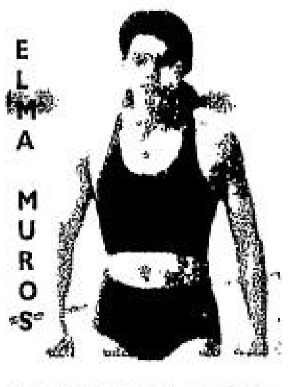
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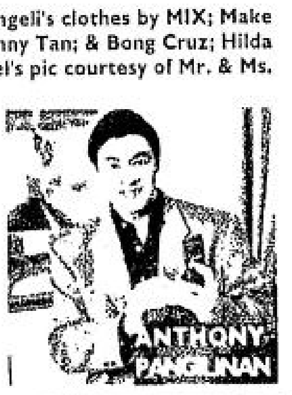

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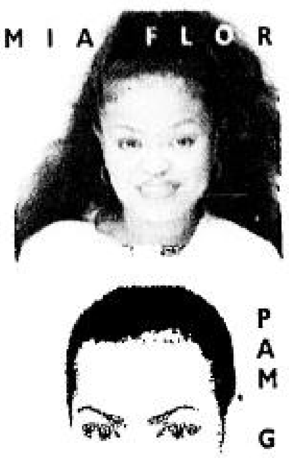
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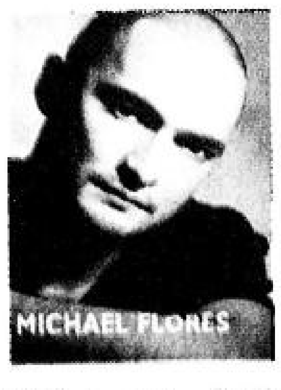

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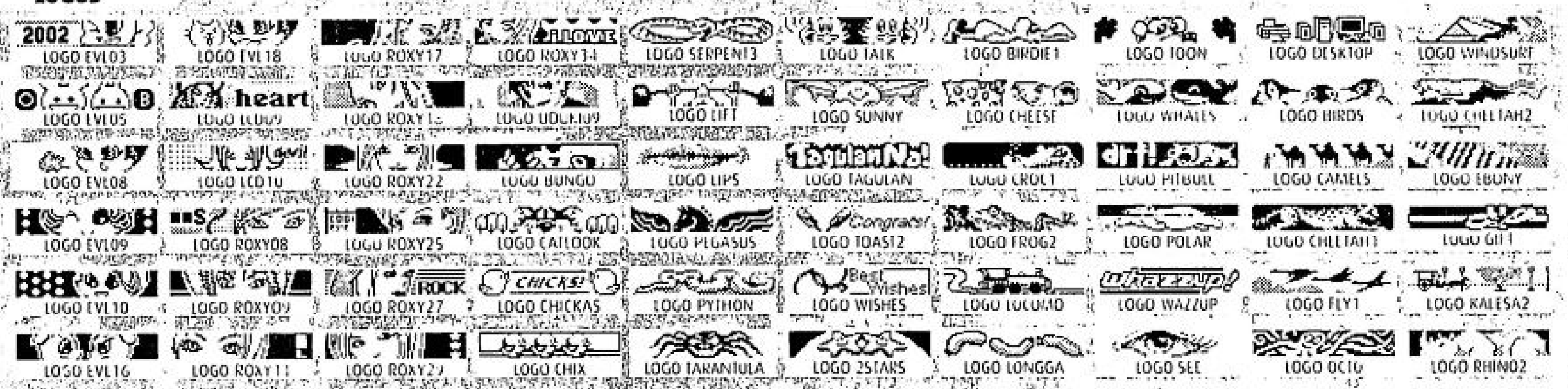
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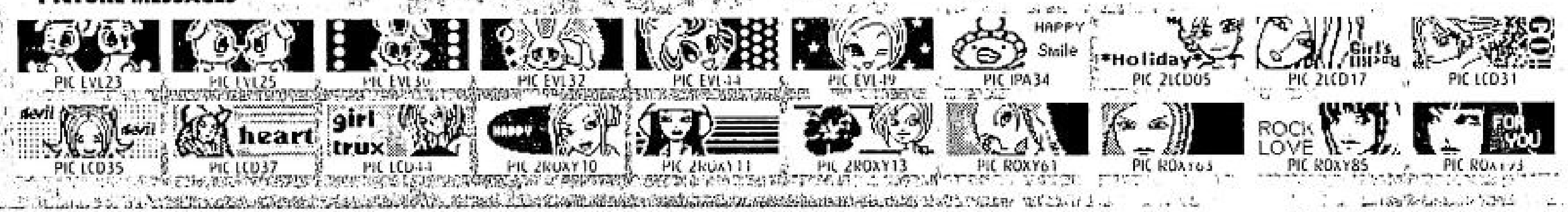
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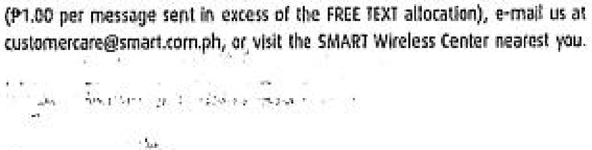

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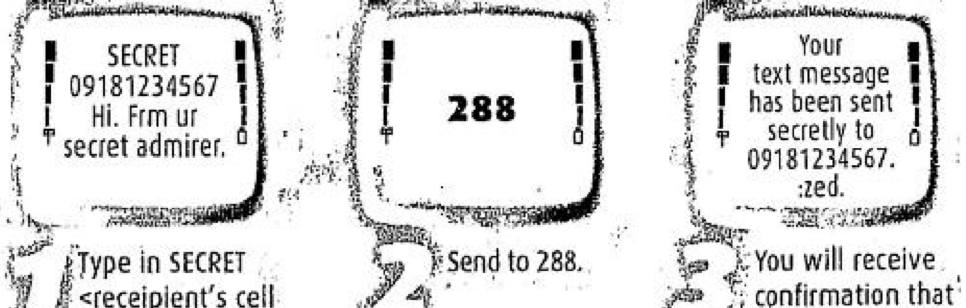

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288

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Genesis: Of fun and faith

By Paeng Altavas

EVERY year, with the Genesis Anniversary supplement, we always go through a lot of discussion, hemming and hawing as to who should do the feature write-up on Genesis and this year was no different. After much deliberation (in my absence) it was logically and unanimously (minus me) agreed that since I had been in hiatus for three years from Genesis, my perspective would be a fresher and less-prejudiced and that I was going to write that feature (no one read me rights!).

Of course I did all the hemming and hawing, but that's traditional as I said earlier, and I still did the feature..

Administration: Upper row L to R: Rosmar Lacdang, Nick Sadava, Willy Catulay
Front row: L to R: Tina Alfuente, Mona Abillar, Elizabeth Eduave, Shalee Eduave, Baruel Pesquera

Accounting: L to R: Elizabeth Abisado, Wilma Argawanon, Ness Nardo, Amy Lauraya, Leah Bawalan

So, what's Manila Genesis Entertainment & Management, Incorporated (nee Genesis) all about?

Well, let me first tell you about this office the interiors of which gleams with the polish of chrome, slate-grey wall-to-wall carpeting, plush leather furniture, the latest in hi-technology with regard to its office facilities and production utilities run by be-necktied male executives and their smartly-clad female counterparts. The hum that prevails in this otherwise quiet office comes from the steady drum of computers running almost twenty-four hours a day – truly an office of corporate sybaritic lifestyle. Impressed already? Good, cause the (ha ha) laughs on you. That's not Genesis I was writing about, that was another office in uptown Ortigas Center. Ours is (ha ha) one for the National Geographic on Discovery Channel..

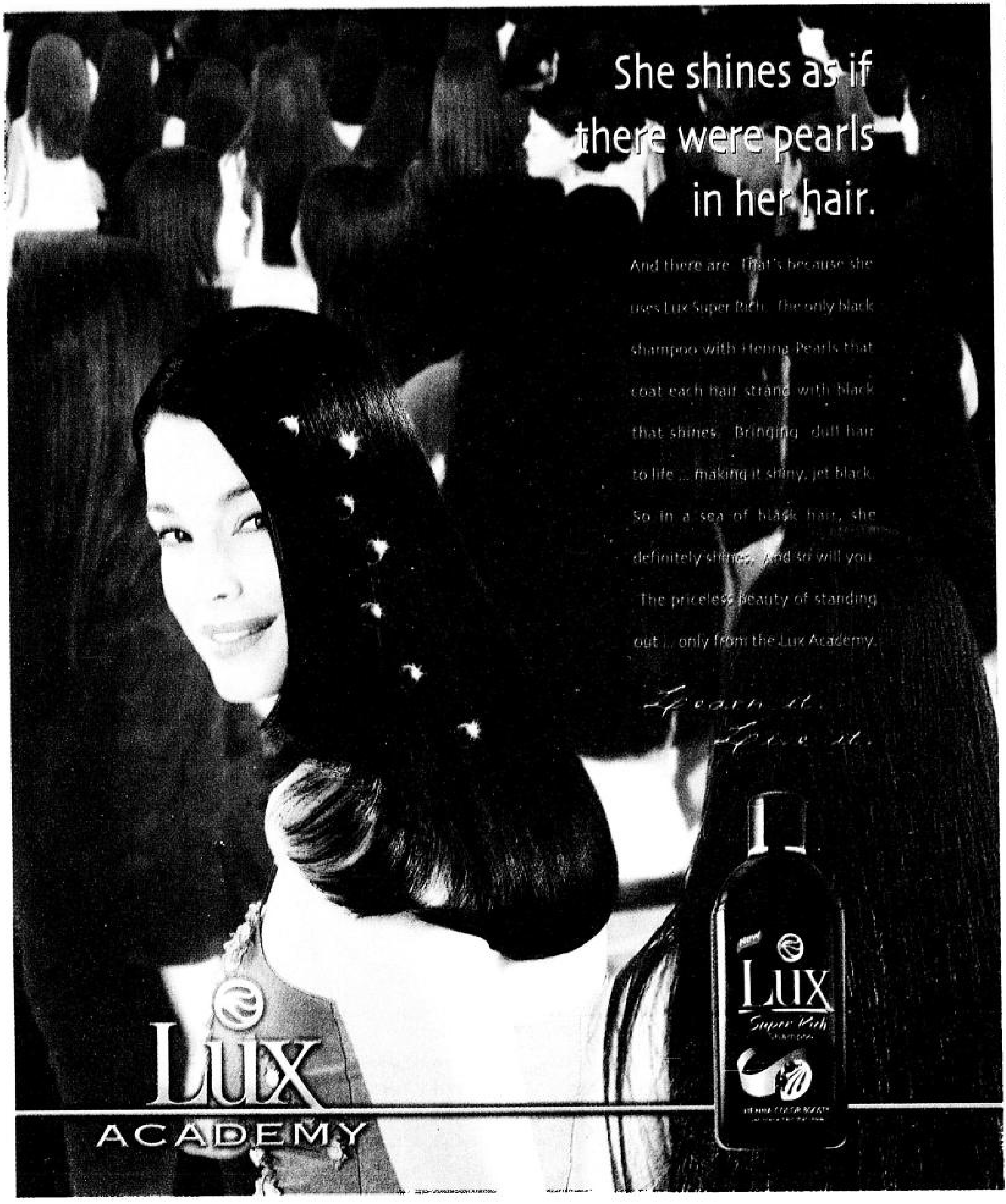
The REAL Genesis office (sigh) with all its features cannot be written about. I must TELL you all about it through a grand tour of the place!

To begin with, we are located on the ground floor of Limketkai along Ortigas Avenue, between two banks and daily face the possible threat of being the unwilling hostages in the event of a bank robbery drama. The signage above our front door that used to be independently lit at night, now gets illumined by the light of the bank signages on our right and left side. The entrance doorway (and chrome it is not!) is always open, not only because visitors are always welcome, but mainly because one of its doors has a busted spring (which was supposed to have been fixed last year) that disallows it from shutting properly. Behind these doors, now, that's where this feature gets really exciting !

Public Relations: L to R: Jackie Maniquis, Jing Carpio, Joey Chatto

There is no wall-to-wall carpeting only walls with tile-flooring that in some parts do not even reach to the other wall. Then the walls! Oh, the walls! The walls, I declare, were painted by a vertigo-dazed interior decorator that was let loose in Genesis with a paintbrush and gallons of paint in various colors (pink, white, gray, blue, mint green, marble-finish and even purple!) At Christmastime, we simply do away with the decors and just put on the Tivoli lights instantly transforming our office into Christmasland.

There is no plush leather furniture only furniture pieces that don't even match – we have rattan and steel furniture, a black-and-white leatherette swimming pool lounge set that was donated by Kuya Germs (for the visitors-in-waiting), a Gothic-inspired marble –top dining table that we use as the conference table, a batibot dining set with a chair that has a break-away backrest, a production storage corner draped over with a shower curtain in an attempt to look like a production storage corner but succeeding in looking more like a shower cubicle, lots and lots of swivel chairs one behind each


She shines as if there were pearls in her hair.
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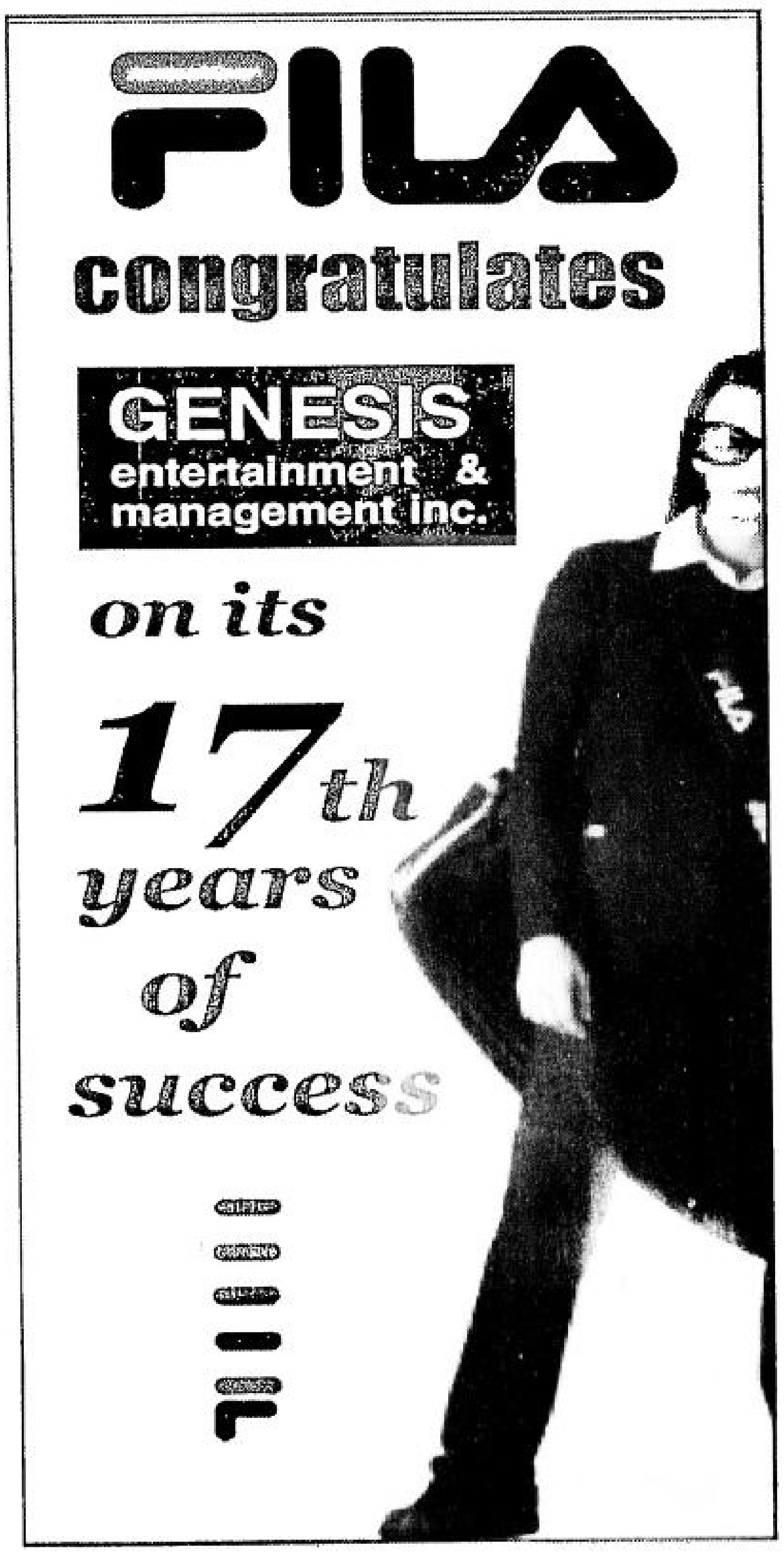
FILA
congratulates
GENESIS entertainment & management inc.
on its 17th years of success

EXECOM: L to R: Paeng Altavas, Ayen Garcia, Mike Jamir, Irene Mamangon

desk and the rest along the narrow hallways, at the foot of the landing , at the head of the landing, on top of unused tables and even in the bathroom! And, oh let us not forget the star item – a mad-crazed water dispenser that gives you hot water when you press COLD and vice-versa.

As to the be-necktied and smartly-dressed executives, far as I know, they're anywhere and everywhere except in Genesis, save for the two top honchos (Angeli and Gina) who are the only saving grace that has stopped the fashionistas from attacking us for our eclectic apparel that defies reason, season or trend.

With regard to the hum of running computers in an otherwise quiet atmosphere of the other office, ours is the (tek-tek-tek) hum of a noisy blower-fan (the aircon is almost always conked-out) amidst an otherwise noisy cacophony of voices going on at the same time in different levels of emotions and decibels.

The list is endless and as the days go by, some new feature is added to it. But to all these I just have one thing to say – "Thank God!"

Why? Because, dear reader, Genesis is NOT an office. Genesis is a group of people who have devoted themselves to a commitment of putting the interests of its artists and others above their own, of excellence in all its productions big and small, of sharing their blessings with the less-priveleged, of denying no sincere need at anytime, of continuously praying and of standing by biblical teachings despite the consequent losses to the company. That's Genesis!

Marketing: L to R: Joy Cochon, Ana Gonzaga Publishing: L to R: Dinah Marquez-Armesin

Never mind that we have more than enough characters amongst us to make an interesting sideshow, and we do have a lot – uncle toms (former lesbians) and tia marias (former gays), wives of all categories (separated, abandoned, abused, unwed, maritally-happy or widowed), straights, former addicts and other so-called 'misfits'. Being the way the group is makes the members more prismatic in the service given and more sensitive in all dealings to the feelings of others.

Criticized for its decisions based on its spiritual convictions, the Genesis group is by now a platoon of battle-weary wounded soldiers who persistently refuse to drop dead and valiantly try to make a difference in the local industry of entertainment. Why? Because simply, it's God's will and because it is so, the Genesis group would rather be found dead (metaphorically) doing it than otherwise.

And as to the office looking the way it is, justify it to say that it's because Genesis takes to heart the teachings of Hagai (a biblical prophet) that encourages the building of the 'spiritual temple' rather than embellishing the 'earthly houses' – A bypassed luxury to Genesis is surely a gained comfort to others.

To conclude, I say again, "Thank God!"

Production: L to R: Vina Pareja, Weng Paz, Galli Abarintos

Sales, TV & Films: L to R: Katherine Garong, Edwin Juarez, Chris Lopez, Vicky Pajarillo, Jaye Bautista-Villaraza

As we begin our 17th year, we thank GOD for all our friends.

The artist. The producers. The networks.
The recording & film companies. Our friends in media.
The sponsors. The adverstising agencies.
The production houses. Our corporate partners.
The audiences. The fans.
Our prayer warriors. Our families.

Where would we be without you?
Taos-pusong pasasalamat!

Anthony Pangilinan◆Candy Pangilinan◆Carla Martinez◆Carlo Orosa◆Chat Silayan◆Contagious
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Giselle Tongi◆Hilda Koronel◆Jamie Rivera◆January Isaac◆Jojo Lastimosa◆Leni Rivera
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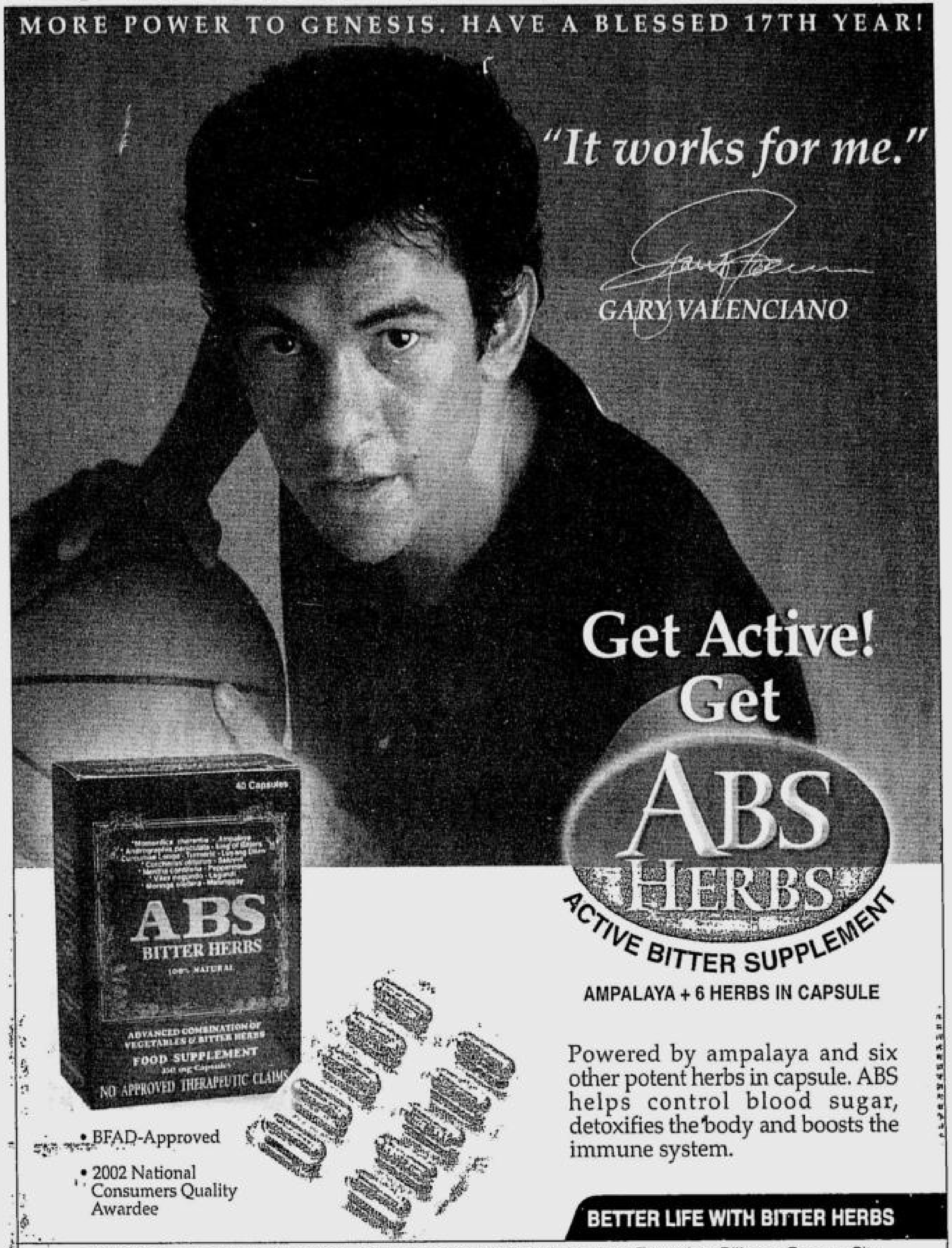

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on its

17th ANNIVERSARY

'Red Dragon' fields cast of exceptional performers

By Nestor U. Torre

HOPKINS AS HANNIBAL LECTER. Tough act to follow— except by himself.

KEITEL. Doesn't even look like he's acting.

NORTON. Cast as a troubled FBI investigator.

FIENNES. Sweetly sinister as Francis Dolarhyde.

SOME years ago, "The Silence of the Lambs" set a high standard for creepy-crazy films about brilliant serial killers. Anthony Hopkins' Dr. Hannibal Lecter is a tough act to follow, but he tried, anyway, in last year's "Hannibal."

Trilogy

That filmic exercise was less than overwhelmingly successful, so he's trying again, this time with "Red Dragon," the third of original novelist Thomas Harris' trilogy about genius gone mad—or madness scaling the heights of genius.

This time around, the film is a prequel. It introduces Lecter, the brilliant psychiatrist-turned-killer; Will Graham, a psychologically troubled FBI investigator; and a ritualistic butcher known as The Tooth Fairy.

To help make sure that this third film fares better than "Hannibal," its producers have cast some of the film world's best actors in important roles. Aside from Hopkins, there's Edward Norton as Will Graham, Ralph Fiennes as Francis Dolarhyde, Harvey Keitel as FBI boss Jack Crawford, and Philip Seymour Hoffman as Freddy Lounds, a tabloid reporter.

Scant comfort

They are brought together by a plot that has Lecter "safely" behind bars. But this provides scant comfort to Graham, who is hunting down a new nemesis, a merciless slayer of sleeping families (thus his Tooth Fairy sobriquet).

Graham has such a hard time capturing the Tooth Fairy that he decides to enlist Lecter's help. He is, after all, a brilliant madman, and can thus second-guess what the new serial killer will do next.

In "consulting" Lecter, however, Graham opens himself up to the serial killer's clever machinations. He may be caged, but he's still dangerous, particularly in a seductively psychological sense, since it's hinted that he and Lecter had a past relationship. Since Graham was the one who put him behind bars, Lecter could agree to help him, but only at a very steep price.

Decision

Since Hopkins' portrayal of Lecter has been hailed as a masterful depiction of evil, Graham had to be similarly strong and complex, hence, the decision to cast Edward Norton in the plum role.

Norton may be younger than Hopkins, but he's equally celebrated for the perverse characters he's depicted in past films—the neo-Nazi in "American History X," the mentally disturbed defendant in "Primal Fear," etc.

As chief investigator Jack Crawford, Harvey Keitel doesn't even look like he's acting, he's that astutely cast. And Philip Seymour Hoffman makes a really smarmy tabloid reporter.

Plum role

But the plum role in the film is that of Francis Dolarhyde, who turns out to be the serial killer known as the Tooth Fairy. He is consumed by the need to "transform" his victims—after which he is similarly transformed. He knows Lecter understands him—as someone who was once a man, but has now become something more.

The character is so challenging and confounding that it's been assigned to the sweetly sinister Ralph Fiennes, who first made audiences sit up and take notice when he played a tormented and tormenting Nazi officer in "Schindler's List."

Hadji, Rey and Rico perform biggest hits at Music Museum

By Remy M. Umerez

THE '70s produced three of the biggest names in Filipino music—Hadji Alejandro, Rey Valera and Rico J. Puno. Tonight, they are performing at Music Museum in Viva Concerts' "Greatest Hits Series."

First time

Concert director Roxanne Lapus says, "This will be the first time for the three of them to interact together onstage. Since they have produced so many hits, we are choosing the five most popular. *Yung hanggang ngayon ay nire-*request *pa rin.*

"I cannot promise *na walang sapawan na mangyayari,* because I have directed Rico in the past and, once he lets loose with his green jokes, there's no stopping him."

At their presscon, the three durable entertainers gave samples of what to expect from their concert. Rico sang "The Way We Were" exactly the way he delivered it three decades ago.

Touch

All through the years, Hadji hasn't lost his touch. "Tag-araw" and "Panakip-Butas" are among his biggest hits, and they brought back memories when he sang them again at the presscon.

> Valera's songs have become contemporary classics. Rico and Hadji call them 'timeless'

Valera is a composer whose songs have become contemporary classics. Rico and Hadji expressed admiration for his compositions, calling them "timeless."

Until today, "Pangako Sa 'Yo," "Maging Sino Ka Man," "Naaalala Ka," and "Kung Kailangan Mo Ako" have remained huge favorites.

No wonder, when Rey sang "Kung Kailangan Mo Ako," the audience joined him in the refrain.

The hitmakers of the '70s will have a final performance on Oct. 19 at 8 p.m., again at Music Museum in Greenhills.

PUNO, VALERA AND ALEJANDRO. Durable enteratiners and musical trendsetters.

Eddie Romero assesses current state of Filipino films

From page G5

this country because there will always be people who will make a tremendous fuss over sex films. The MTRCB is a game where you have the moral majority.

What kind of a film director are you?

I think there are two kinds of film directors: One who is obsessed with the techniques of the medium, and one who is concerned with content and character. I belong to the second. I use appropriate lighting and camera angles with the view to let the audience know what's happening on the screen rather than impressing them with the picture.

Functional

I'm not a Rembrandt. I'm functional. Sometimes, I'm careless with angles. I don't have the leisure to say this is gonna be a polished thing.

Some people say it's only you who really made FPJ act in "Agila."

I think that's funny. I don't direct actors, I just make them understand their characters and allow them to develop on their own.

How come you're not directing films anymore?

I've passed mandatory retirement already (laughs).

But Kurosawa has been making films even in his 80s ...

Yes, but his last films were just sad shadows of his earlier movies. In the States, directors like George Stevens disappeared earlier on. I think it was only John Houston who continued to direct until he dropped dead.

What advice can you give the current crop of young film directors?

Go into real estate? (laughs) I'd tell them to make up their mind.

Satisfaction

It's not about glamour, they have to ask themselves what gives them satisfaction. They have to know themselves, then they have to pay their dues.

What about those who'd like to enter the industry but are hesitant to do so because of the intrigues and controversies in the movie world?

I think it's a lame excuse. You do it because you want to. You don't wait for a better climate. We all have our worlds. Decide where you want to go—and just go.

What is the ultimate joy in movie directing?

Who was this director who said when you shout "Action!," cities collapse? I think that's the joy there. You're creating a world!

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM OCT. 5 – OCT. 11

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E!31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary d' Potter 9:00 Klasmeyts 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	6:00 Dragon Ball Z 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema *Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw* 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Grey Owl*	7:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Kagat ng Dilim	6:00 Travel Time 6:30 The Explorer 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! News Weekend 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E!True Hollywood Story *Roman Polanski* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 E! News Weekend
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Avengers* 11:30 Che-Cha Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9.00 Sunday's Big Event *2002 World Music Awards* 11:00 Road Trip	8.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva's Hot Hits	6:00 Invasion America 6:30 Digital Tour 7:00 Exposed 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The Street 10:30 Points of View	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Original Special 8:00 Rank *Hollywood's Hottest Blondes* 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner *Celine Dion* 10:00 MIB Special
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11.00 The Correspondents	6:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10.00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 (Recap)	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go - 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Fashion TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 GMA's Best *Fatal Attraction* 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & the City	6.00 Carita de Angel 7:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:00 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10.00 Diwa 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Buffy 9.00 Charmed 10.00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind the Scenes 8:00 Mysteries and Scandals 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On *UK*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	6.00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10.00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 (Recap)	6.00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainmnet Tonight	6.00 Challenge of the Masters! 9:00 Sine Shawie 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Angel 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Bituin 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Whattamen 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Private Conversation	6:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 (Recap)	6.00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Friends 9:00 That's 70's Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Task Force Siyasat	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 Boh Bote Nga 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Higher Ground 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Fugitive 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Wrestling	6:00 PBA Games 8.30 Challenge of the Masters 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Baywatch Hawaii 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind the Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11.00 Wild On *Hawaiian Islands*
	6.00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101	6.00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 (Recap)	6:00 Balitang-Balita! 6:30 Shulato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Single 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9.00 Daboy en Da Girl 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Debate w/ Mare and Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 7:30 Sister, Sister 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainmnet Tonight	6:00 Challenge of the Masters 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:30 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Bahamas*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6.30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 True Crime	6:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10.00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 (Recap)	6:00 Balitang-Balita! 6.30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-air 10.00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Malcolm In The Middle 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 NYPD Blue 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *70's Today*	6:00 PBA Games 8:30 Challenge of the Masters 11:00 IBC News	6.00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8.00 Survivor: Thailand 8:30 The Chronicle 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind the Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Road*

Win a Revo in AFFAP Yuletide raffle draw

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

OUR group, The Association of Former Flight Attendants of Philippine Airlines (AFFAP) and the AFFAP Foundation Inc., has hatched up the bright idea of raffling off a brand-new Toyota Revo van for the Christmas holidays, for a very noble cause. The raffle draw is on Dec. 7, 7 p.m., at the Philippine Airlines In-Flight Service Grounds, Naia, Pasay City.

First prize

First prize is a Toyota Revo SP, Super Sport Diesel van; second prize is a Phillips 29" colored TV; third Prize, refrigerator; fourth prize, five electric fans, and the special prize is a family portrait by Mandy Navasero (that's me).

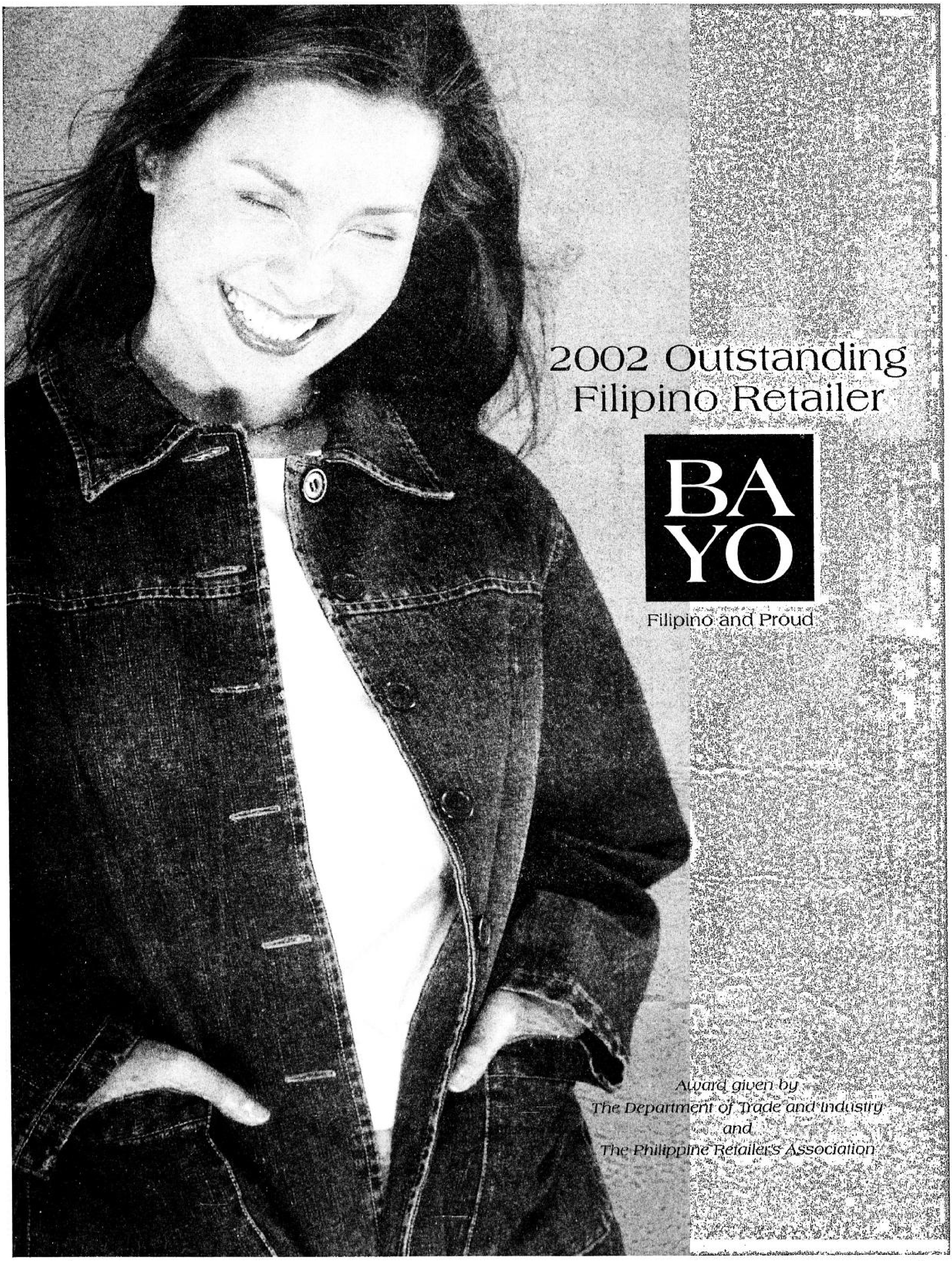
There are 6,000 tickets in all, so there are many more available for those who want a chance to drive off in a brand new van. We have started selling raffle tickets at P300 each since last August. Your P300 is a donation to the numerous projects of the AFFAP Foundation.

The priority recipients of the Foundation at present are retired flight attendants who are out of work. Another project is setting up scholarships for dependents of retirees who are encountering financial and health difficulties.

WIN/ G12

AFFAP ladies trying out the Revo for the Yuletide raffle are Avelyn Gimenez-Jahns (at the wheel), Cristy Romero-Altura, Greta Soriano-Lauron and Chari La'O-Bagatsing.

AFFAP OFFICERS: Kneeling from left, Carmen Rodriguez-Dreyfus, Avelyn Gimenez-Jahns and Mandy Navasero; standing from right, Tita Meneses-Trillo, president; Marita Jimenez-Bulseco-Waugh; Chari La'O-Bagatsing, vice-president; Christy Altura, 2nd vice-president; Susan Gonzales-Tabisaura, treasurer; Greta Soriano Lawren-Soriano, asst. treasurer; May Hermoshisima (guest); Carmen Laman Miciano, secretary, and Linda Escobar Lorenzo, liaison officer.


2002 Outstanding
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BA
YO
Filipino and Proud
Award given by
The Department of Trade and Industry
and
The Philippine Retailers Association

Maricel Soriano reveals her secret recipe for success

NEW
New Improved Firmness
WHITE KING
FIESTA Spaghetti
Net Weight 1kg

praktikal. Kaya pagdating sa spaghetti, ang choice ko... Fiesta Spaghetti! Kasing firm ng mamahaling spaghetti pero 'di kasing mahal. Ang dami ko pang naihanda."

P10 SAVINGS VS LEADING BRAND

Raising the quality of food for the Filipino

RFM

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Platform Bed from the Horizons Collection

Annual Essentials Sale

You'll certainly flip over the many choices from our Casual and Classic Collections. From bedroom to living room sets and accents.
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Elvis' hits album set to top record charts around the world

By Sue Zeidler

LOS ANGELES—Twenty-five years after his death, Elvis Presley, the King of Rock 'n' Roll, is about to do something he never managed in life—debut an album at No. 1 on record charts around the world.

According to industry watchers, Presley's "Elvis 30 Number One Hits" compilation, which was released by Bertelsmann AG's RCA Records on Sept. 24, is poised to top the charts in at least 12 countries.

Sales in the United States alone were expected to hit almost 500,000 units last week, said a spokesman for RCA, noting it would be the first time an Elvis album ever debuted at No. 1.

PRESLEY. World's top-selling pop star.

Broad collection

There already are more than a dozen Presley greatest hits compilations, but music fans have been anticipating this CD, a broad collection of tunes, thanks largely to a $10-million publicity push aimed at showcasing the King to a new generation.

The collection features songs from each part of Presley's career and includes early hits such as "Don't Be Cruel" and 'Jailhouse Rock," as well as later songs like "Return to Sender" and "Burning Love." This past summer, thousands of fans paid homage to the King on the 25th anniversary of his death as "Elvis-mania" took the world by storm, fueled in part by the success of a new remix of the song, "A Little Less Conversation," which is also on the new CD.

Big seller

"This has been the biggest marketing push I can think of that has ever been put together for an Elvis compilation," said Geoff Mayfield, director of charts for Billboard, a music trade magazine. "I suspect this will be a big seller into the holiday season." Mayfield said RCA's marketing blitz was, in part, inspired by the record label's success a few years ago with its CD featuring No. 1 hits by the Beatles.

Presley, the world's top-selling pop star, with more than one billion records sold, died of a drug-induced heart attack at the age of 42 on Aug. 16, 1977.

According to music experts, 68 of Presley's singles reached the American Top 20 in his career.

Reuters

Newman going back to Broadway after absence of nearly four decades

NEWMAN. Made his first Broadway appearance in "Picnic."

NEW YORK—Paul Newman is returning to Broadway after nearly 40 years.

Revival

The star of such films as "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," "The Hustler," "Cool Hand Luke," "The Color of Money" and most recently "Road to Perdition," will appear in a revival of "Our Town," playing the stage manager in Thornton Wilder's classic play, set in the little New Hampshire town of Grover's Corners.

The production opens Dec. 4 at the Booth Theater and will run through Jan. 26, Bill Evans, a spokesman for the show, said Wednesday.

Preview performances begin Nov. 22.

1964 comedy

The 77-year-old Academy Award-winning actor, who last starred on Broadway in the 1964 comedy "Baby Want a Kiss," heads a cast that will include Jane Curtin, Frank Converse, Jeffrey DeMunn, Jayne Atkinson and Stephen Spinella. He made his first Broadway appearance in 1953, in "Picnic."

"Our Town," directed by James Naughton, played earlier this year at Connecticut's Westport Country Playhouse, which is run by Newman's wife, actress Joanne Woodward.

AP

Win a . . .

From page G11

Officers

The AFFAP officers for the year 2002-2003 are Tita Meneses Trillo, president; Chari La'O-Bagatsing, vice president; Cristy Romero-Altura, 2nd vice president; Carmen Laman-Miciano, secretary; Carmen Rodriguez-Dreyfuss, assistant secretary; Susan Gonzalez-Tabisaura, treasurer; Greta Soriano-Lauron, assistant treasurer; Lira Patrimonio-Guilatco, auditor; Avelyn Gimenez-Jahns, and Mandy Navasero, PRO.

Board members are Susie Hechatnova-Vinluan, Tita Arce-Nario, Nena Jones and Boysie Laman.

Tickets are available at Magnum Greenbelt 2, Pravda Bar at Reposo st., Makati City, Cork Rockwell, Mandy Navasero Studio at 1935 Dominga st., Pasay City (522-1905), the PAL In-Flight Center at Nichols from Ruth Mangahas and Wesley Calfoforo (tel no. 874-8722), Criselda's at Shopsville Greenhills (721-6009) and at Adams at Glorietta 2, 3rd level, at Bouquets and More (823-1184), Fish Pond (837-4755) and Linda Lorenzo (521-7475).

Donations

Another announcement: The SSPE Children Care Foundation has received the following donations directly deposited in its Current Account no. 0291-0369-96 at BPI Forbes Park Branch: Sept. 24, P500 check deposit at Forbes Park; Sept. 25, P1,500; Sept. 27, P2,000 and Oct. 1, P2,500 at Aguirre Branch.

These donations will purchase food and medicines for SSPE Stage IV patient Benjie Raypon, now back in his family's home in San Pedro, Laguna.

Seven years old na kami!

Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2002 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1

HTTP://YOU.INQ7.NET/JI

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Duck Race Page 4
- Pet Care Tips Page 5
- Story: Ang Madyikerong Si Tatay Page 6
- Shirley's Pets Page 11.

Pet-Friendly Vets

In San Juan, there are pet doctors who care for your pets AND your parents' wallets

By Margaux Ortiz

DO you know St. Francis of Assisi?

The world celebrates his feast day on the 4th day of October every year in honor of his great love for animals. World Animal Day highlights the joys of pet ownership and the valuable contributions of these animals to society.

In our country, a private clinic and animal shelter in San Juan has its own way of celebrating this special day.

Free! Free!

Aso't Pusa ATBP. is offering free veterinary services today so your pets can stay happy and healthy.

"We celebrate World Animal Day on the first Saturday of October every year," says 36-year-old Dr. Sonny Bautista, one of Aso't Pusa's veterinarians.

So today, animal-lovin' folks can bring their pets for free spaying and neutering of cats and dogs, free deworming and anti-rabies vaccinations, and free consultations. Their other veterinarian friends also come to the clinic to work for free.

Animal Antics and Cat-astrophes

Dr. Mitzi Perez says that the much-awaited day can be full of funny misadventures.

"Cats occasionally get out of their cages and make a run for the nearest wall or street, creating pandemonium among the owners and volunteers," laughs Dr. Mitzi, who at 25, is the youngest vet at Aso't Pusa. "One cat even hid under a vehicle parked at the San Juan police station."

Neuter-shmooter?

According to Dr. Amy Eleosida, another veterinarian at the clinic, neutering and spaying are very important in controlling the population of dogs and cats.

Spaying entails removing a female animal's ovaries while neutering, also called castration, is the removal of a male dog or cat's testes.

Ouch! That must hurt!

But Dr. Amy says "Through these procedures, we could control the number of stray dogs and cats that could carry diseases such as rabies and mange (also called *galis*)."

Spaying and neutering will also keep dogs and

Pet-Friendly Vets/ p. 5

DOCTORS Sonny, Mitzi and Amy of Aso't Pusa ATBP. chill out with their patients in San Juan.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

OUT THERE

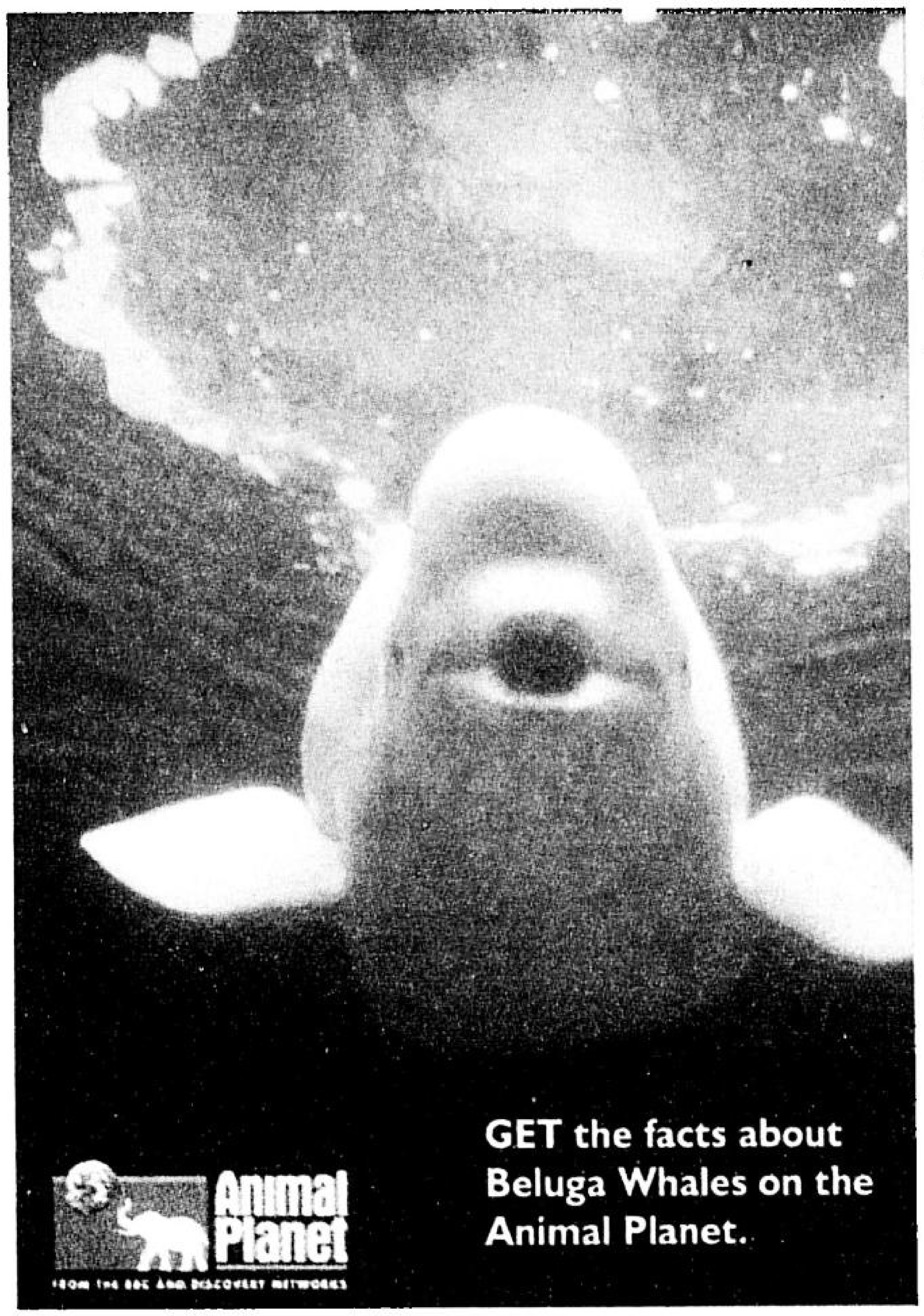
By Christine A. Palla

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Cable Picks

ANIMAL PLANET SPECIALS. Animal Planet brings you a five-hour special featuring various species from around the globe on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 6 to 11 p.m. in celebration of World Animal Day. Watch **"Profiles of Nature: Turtles—The Shell Game," "Elephant Rescue," "Gorilla Encounters," "Return of the Panda,"** and **"Champions of the Wild: St. Lawrence River Beluga Whales."**

MINKS MYSTERY. Minks are water mammals that are known for their brown fur. "The Mystery of the Minks" will take you on a fascinating journey to **Australia's Great Barrier Reef** and let you discover more about the minks' lives on Oct. 7, at 10 p.m. on National Geographic Channel.



GET the facts about Beluga Whales on the Animal Planet.

Events

FOR YOUR PETS ONLY. The Philippine Animal Welfare Society, or PAWS, invites all animal lovers and their pets to a **pet blessing** at the following churches on Oct. 5 & 6 :

- Mary The Queen Parish in Greenhills, **San Juan**. On Oct. 5, Saturday, 11 a.m.
- Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine in Broadway Centrum, **New Manila**. On Oct. 6, Sunday, after the 12:15 p.m. mass.

Pedigree, Alpo and Friskies will give away **free pet food** to early registrants. A volunteer veterinarian from Animal House in New Manila will also be at the church courtyard to give free initial consultations and **free veterinary advice.**

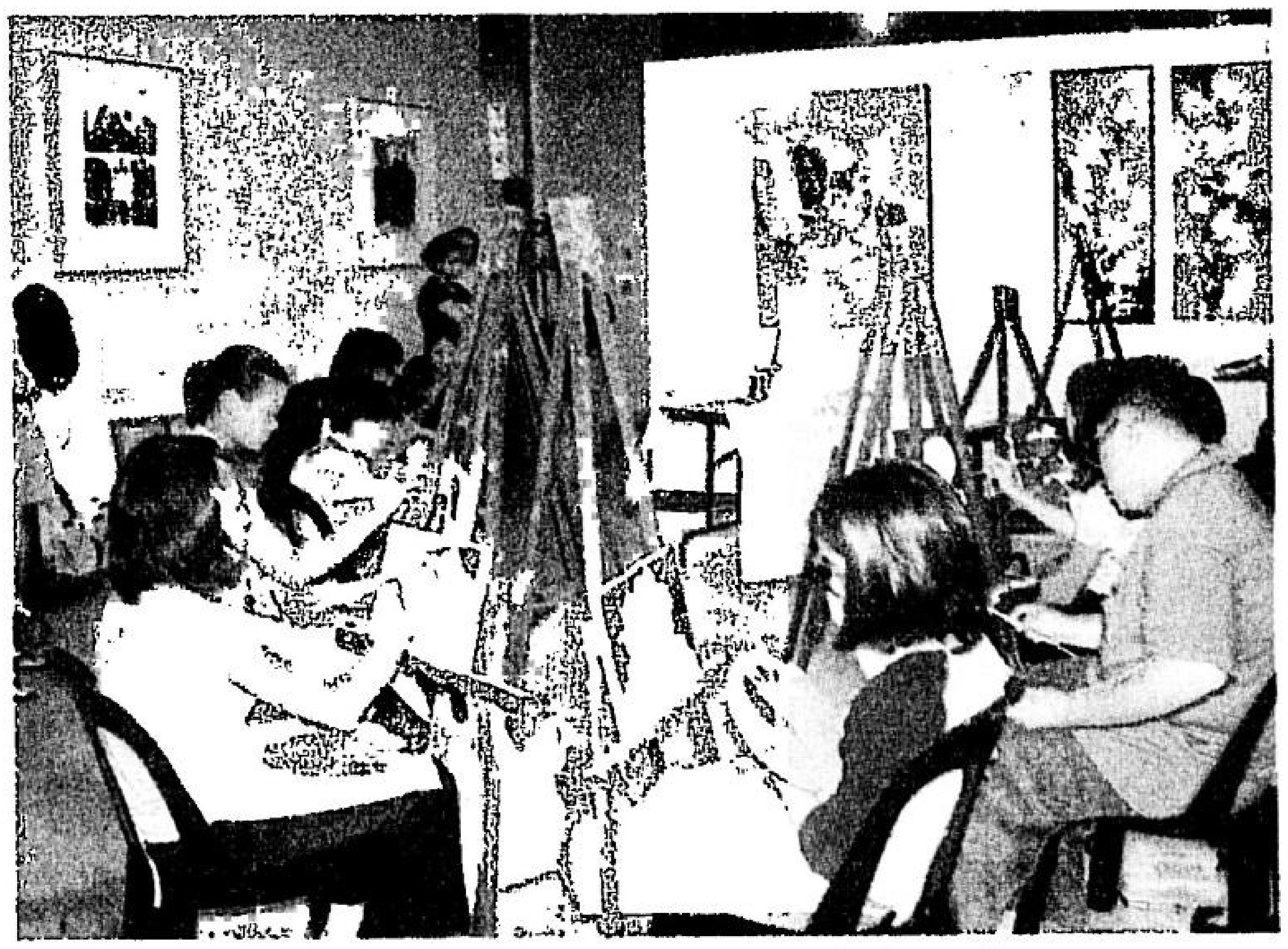
PET SHOW. Is your pet proudly Pinoy? Bring along your native cats and dogs to the Proudly Pinoy Pet Show on Sunday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m. at the Malate Church in Manila. You and your pet can win prizes in contests such as Dog Owner Look-Alike and Cat Owner Look-Alike. Registration time is at 9 a.m. There will also be a parade and blessing of all animals at 12 p.m., and free consultations and rabies vaccinations for a much lower fee. For more info, contact Merly at 633-2240 or Jing at 523-7932.

PINOCCHIO. Watch this well-loved classic at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Huseng Batute. Playdates are on **Oct. 5, 12, 19 and 26.** The play will have morning and matinee performances at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets are available at the CCP Box Office or through Ticketworld at 891-5610. The CCP is located at Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

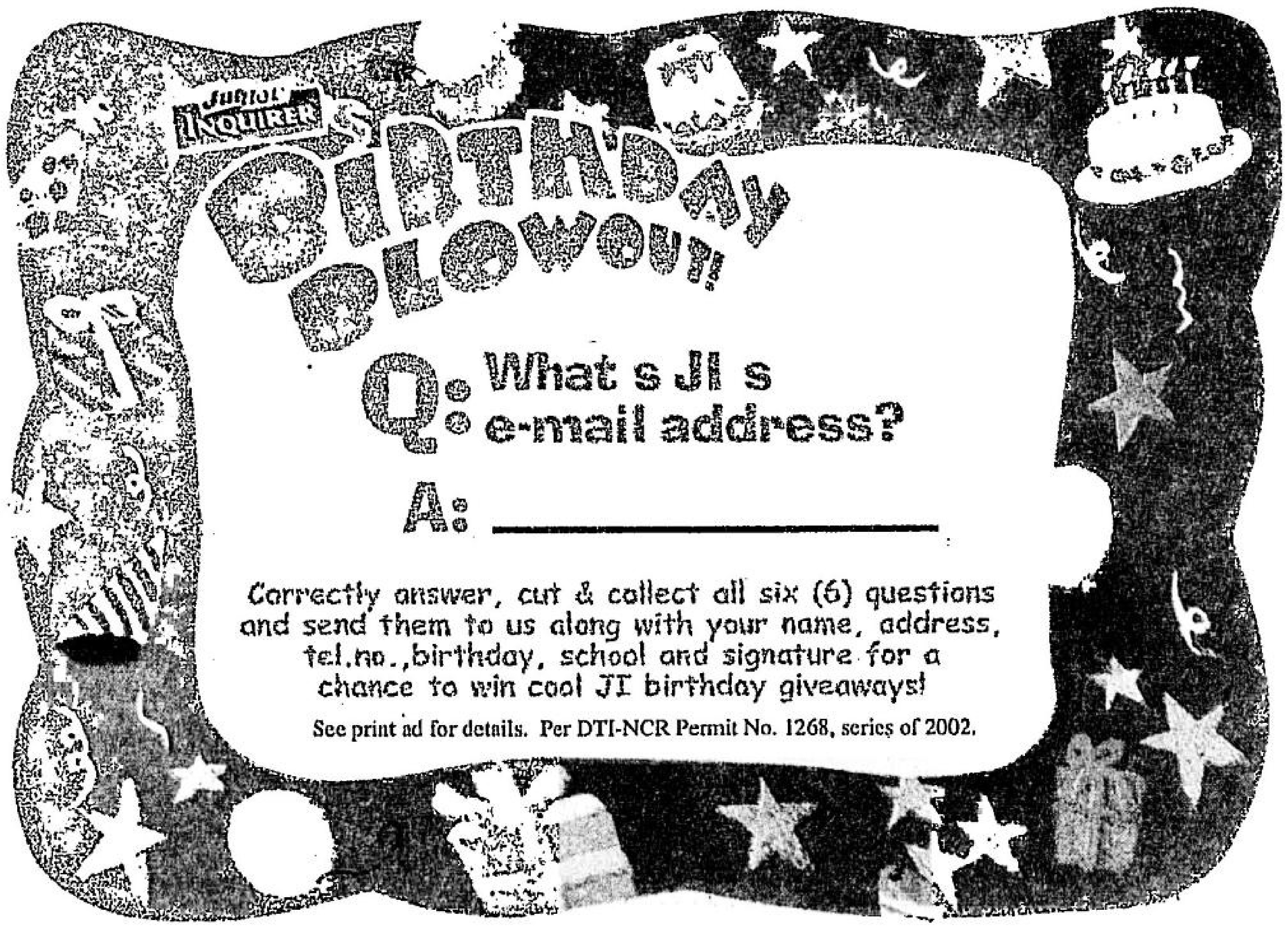
Workshops

TELL STORIES. The Alitaptap Storytellers Club invites students to its two-day **storytelling** workshop on Oct. 5 to 6. Call Charlyn at 366-22-12 or 0917-8156032 for more details.

ART LESSONS. Escuela sa Museo invites young artists to its **workshops**. Check out the schedule of classes: Play Art for Toddlers, Oct. 5-26, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Chinese Painting, from Nov. 9 to Jan. 4, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. There's also **a Beginner's Oil Painting** from Oct. 5 to Dec. 7 at 2-5 p.m. and Basic Arts and Crafts from Nov. 9 to Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All classes will be held on Saturdays. For inquiries, please call Christy Monastrial at 810-8407 or e-mail your questions to inquiries @ayalamuseum.com.



WANNA try Ayala Museum's art workshops?

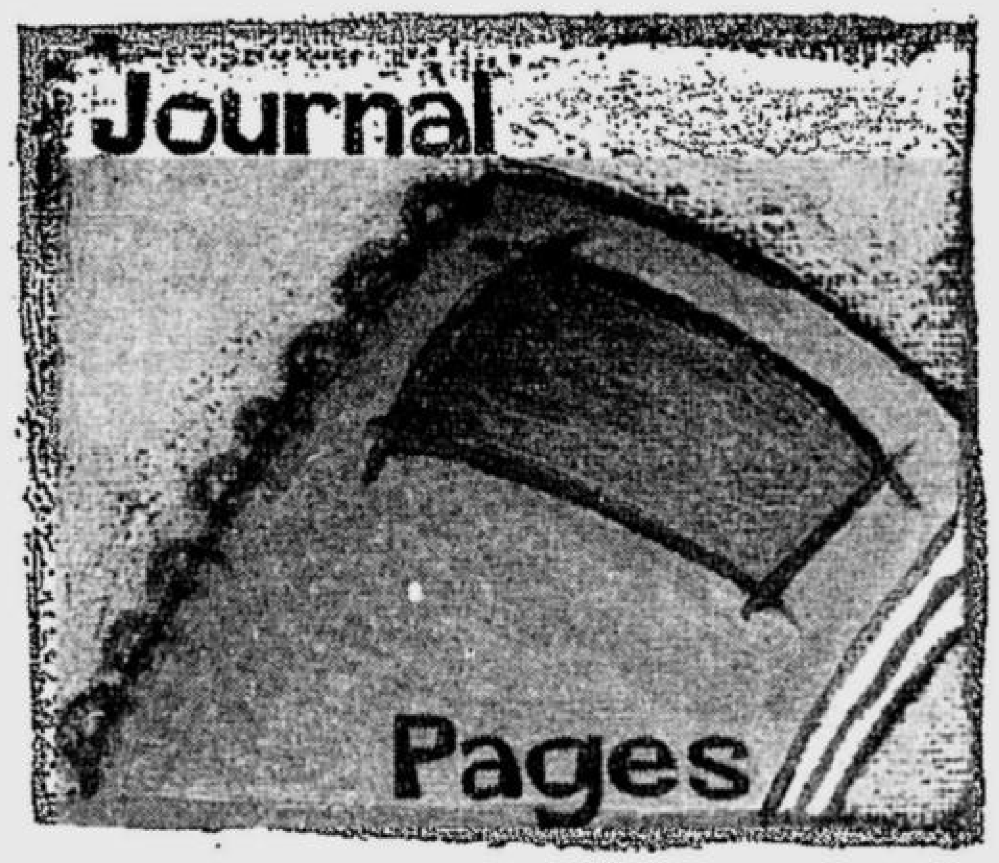

Junior Inquirer's BIRTHDAY BLOWOUT!

Q: What s JI s e-mail address?

A: ____________________

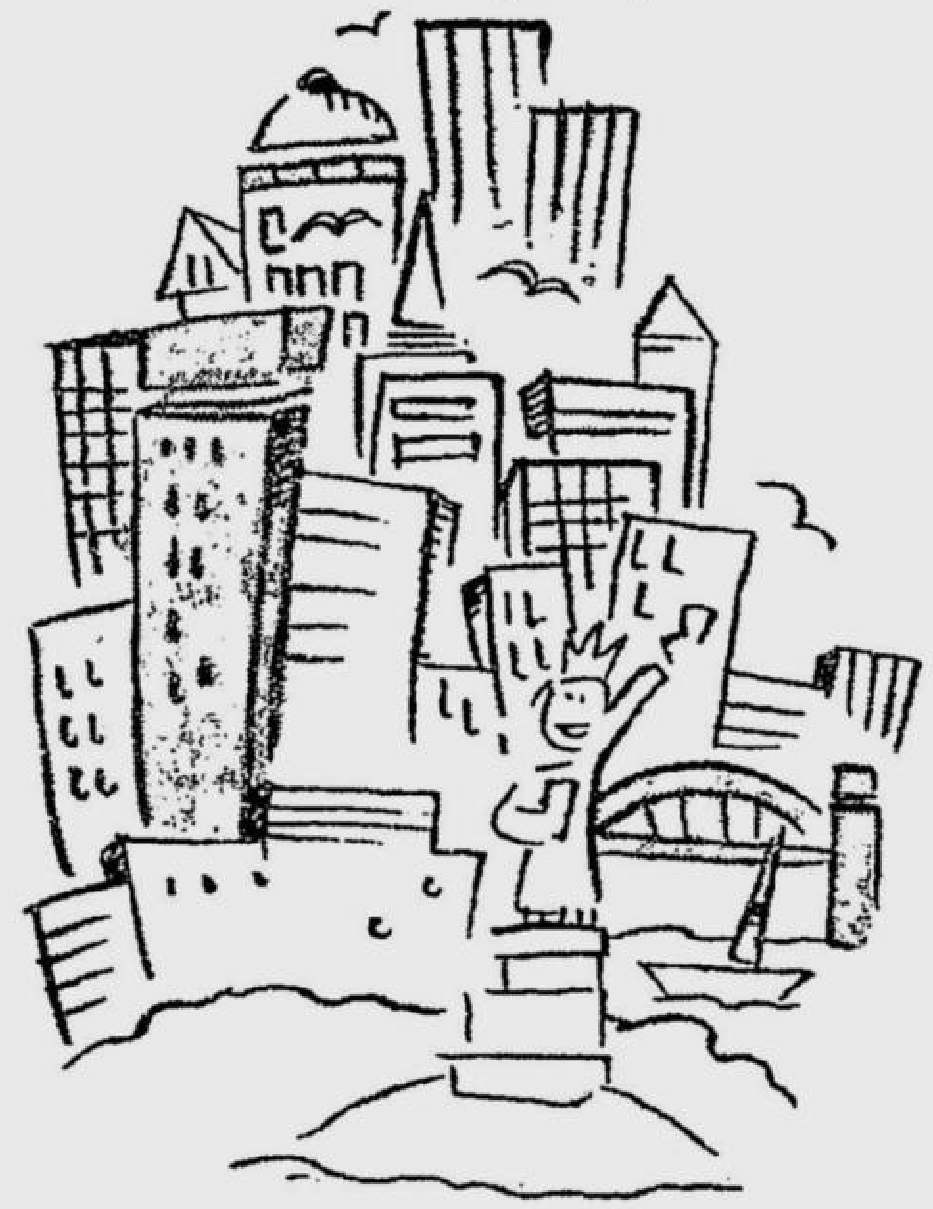
Correctly answer, cut & collect all six (6) questions and send them to us along with your name, address, tel.no.,birthday, school and signature for a chance to win cool JI birthday giveaways!

See print ad for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1268, series of 2002.



On the Top of the World

By Andro Cipriano
PAREF Southridge School
Muntinlupa City



NEW York City is viewed as an urban jungle filled with tall, dull buildings, unfriendly people constantly on the go, and yellow cabs roaming about endlessly.

Located at the heart of the city is the Empire State Building, which is one of the highest buildings in the world. After a visit to that building, I saw New York in a whole new perspective.

There stood the Empire State Building like a lifeless statue, so non-descript. I frowned. It looked exactly like any other building in New York. In the elevator, I was deeply disappointed. Then I heard the elevator tinkle, and open. All of a sudden a gust of wind blew on my face. As I stepped out of the elevator. I gasped.

The panorama was breathtaking! New York City looked so different and beautiful from above. There I saw the city all lit up and with the sunset as its background.

From above, I could see the Hudson River and the Statue of Liberty so minute. It was like the city had suddenly changed. At the top, the city looked so peaceful and alive.

The Empire State Building was like a looking glass that allowed me to view New York through a different angle. It showed me the intimate beauty and serenity of the hectic city.

My visit to the Empire State Building was truly an unforgettable and surreal experience.

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Anniversary Blow-Out!

Junior Inquirer is 7 years old!

Answer the following questions and get a JI shirt, plus the chance to be part of the JI staff for a day!

First two kids with correct answers are the winners. Quick! Fax your answers to 897-4811 with your name, age, telephone number, complete address and the name of your school. Deadline is on October 9.

1. Is Shirley of "Shirley's Pets" a real person?
2. Who is the creator of Atomo and Weboy D' Buddha Bear?
3. Who was JI's first staff writer?
4. What does Guyito's name mean?
5. What is the title of the JI comic strip that was drawn and created by a talent of the TV show "5 and Up"?

Junior INQUIRER

Natasha Vizcarra
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Lynett A. Villariba
Design Consultant
Christine A. Paita
Editorial Assistant
Stephanie Bravo
Artist
Ernie Sambo
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Genie Lagman
Image Setter
Kenny Nuyda
Advertising Sales Manager

Junior Inquirer (JI) welcomes your views, suggestions, essays, short stories and poems. All contributions must be typewritten double-spaced on short bond paper. Contributions without a self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned.
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letters & contributions to:
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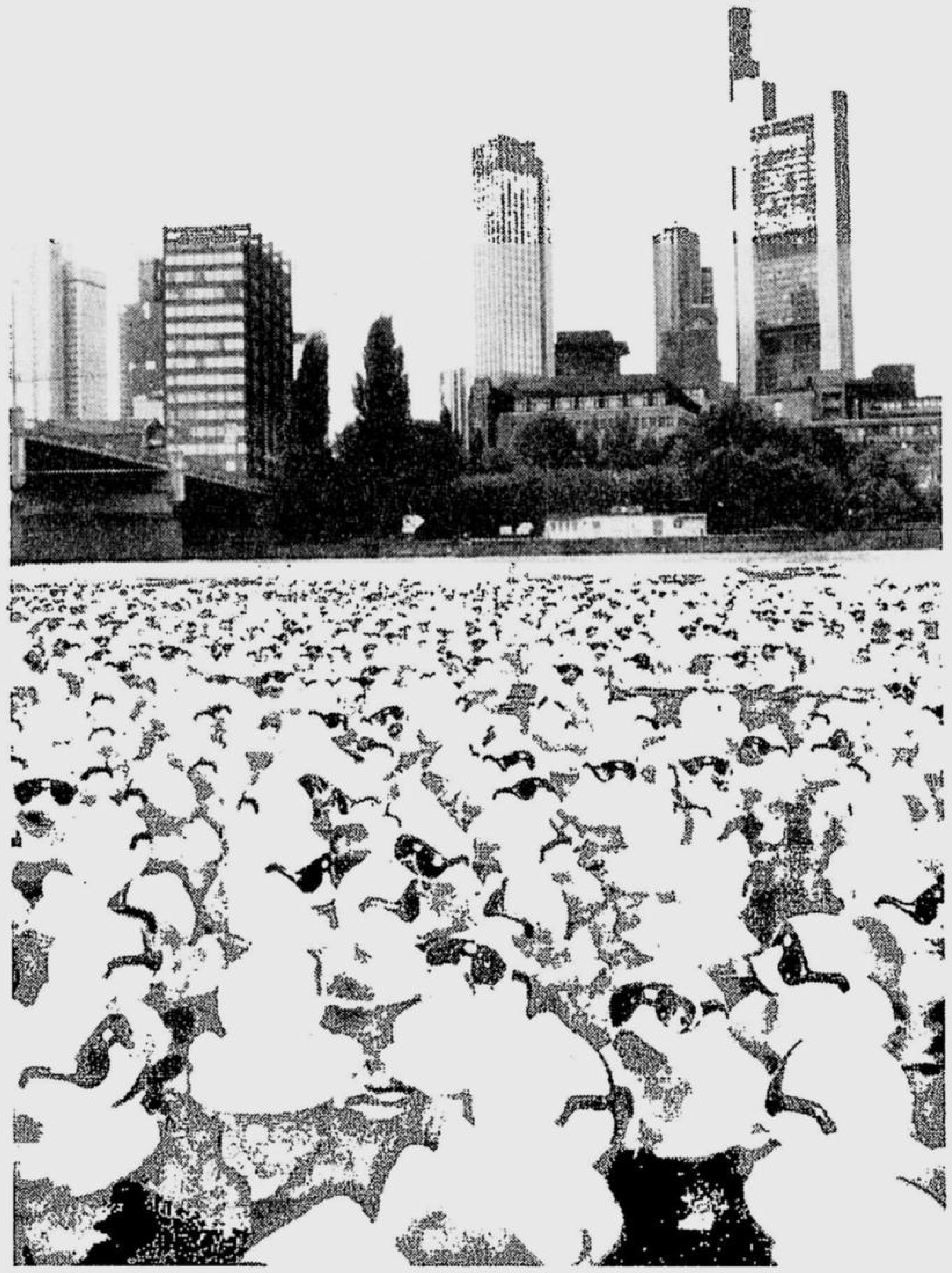
P.O. Box 2353,
Makati Central Post Office,
1263 Makati City,
Philippines

World Scope



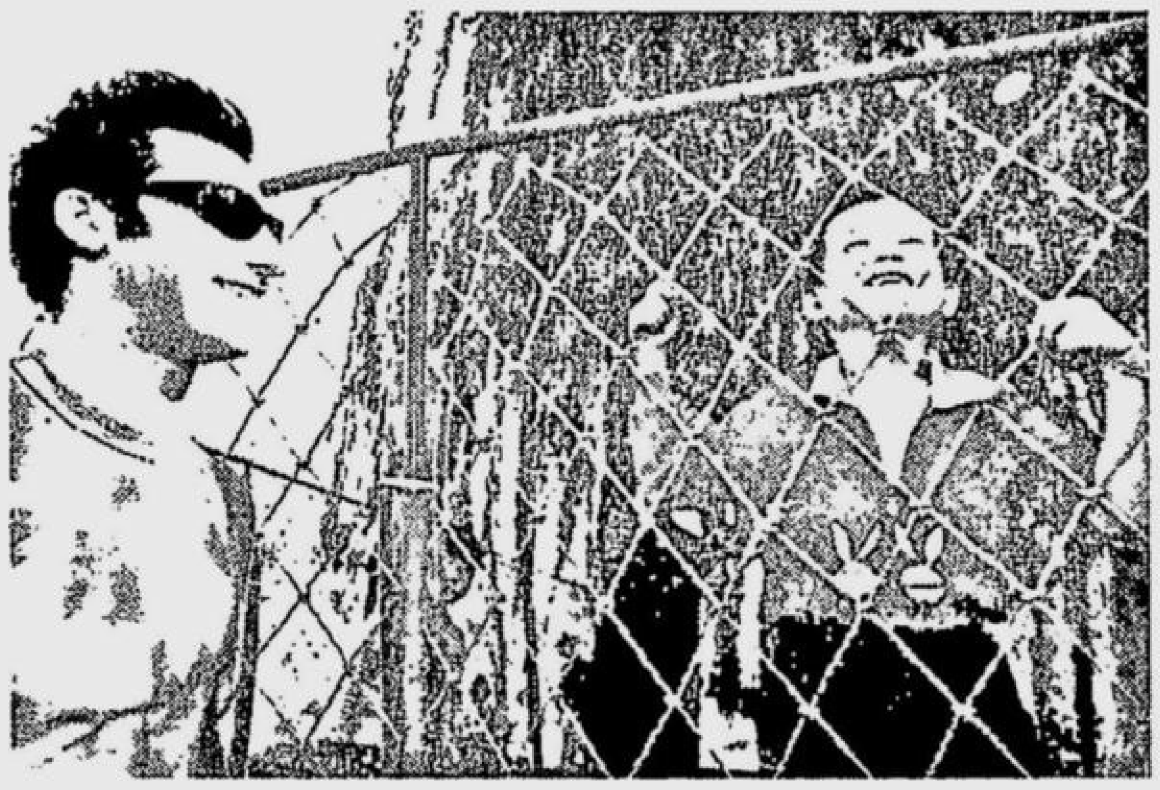
Ready...set...quack!

IT'S the first ever German rubber ducky race! More than 5,000 rubber ducks float on the river Main against the Frankfurt, West Germany skyline. It was for the benefit of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. We're not sure which duck won. They all looked alike! *AP*

Frankfurt, Germany
Beijing, China
Nanjing, China
Tehran, Iran

Way to go, Ian!

WORLD record holder and Olympic gold medallist Ian Thorpe of Australia smiles at a disabled child playing during his visit to China. He was at a vocational training school for disabled children in Beijing and will raise money for this school. *Reuters*



School Starts

IRANIAN school girls hold flowers as they listen to a speech by President Mohammad Khatami at the beginning of the new academic year in Iran at a girls' school southwest of Tehran. Like Iran, other countries start their school year in September because it's the month of summer's end. *AP*

Russia scores best

RUSSIAN Ilona Korstine drives against Chinese Miao Lijie during their quarter-final match in the 14th World Basketball Championship for Women in Nanjing, eastern China. Russia defeated China 86-70. *AP*

Pet-Friendly Vets

(from page 1)

cats healthy because they avoid getting diseases in giving birth.

Dr. Mitzi adds that cats that are spayed and neutered would stay safely at home, and would thus be spared of scratches and wounds sustained from wandering outside and mating.

It's All About Giving

Aso't Pusa ATBP. Animal Shelter & Veterinary Services, which began operating in 1994 with Dr. Sonny and Dr. Amy as two of its four founding vets, originally offered free neutering and spaying on World Animal Day only.

But they eventually decided that as a way of giving back to the community, they would regularly offer free spaying and neutering for cats and free neutering for dogs on Saturdays.

Remember Saturday

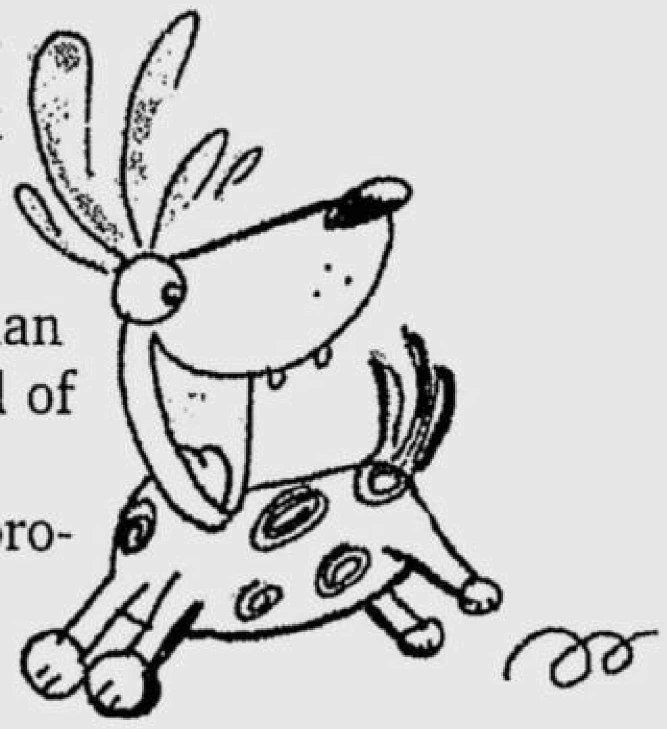
"We figured out that it was our way of thanking everyone and continually raising awareness of the importance of these procedures," says Dr. Sonny. "We perform free spaying of dogs only once a year because, as a major surgery, it entails a lot of time and effort."

Dr. Amy says that the rewards of performing free services for these animals are boundless. Seeing pet owners doing everything just to give their dogs and cats proper care is very heartwarming.

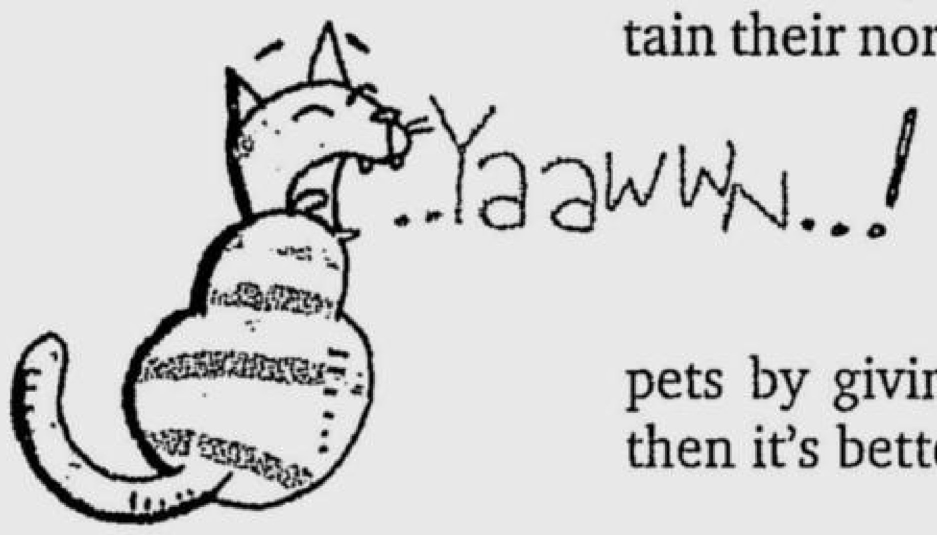
"There are also generous people who give donations in the form of food, medicines and materials," smiles Dr. Amy. "Some donate dog food and antibiotics, which we give away on World Animal Day."

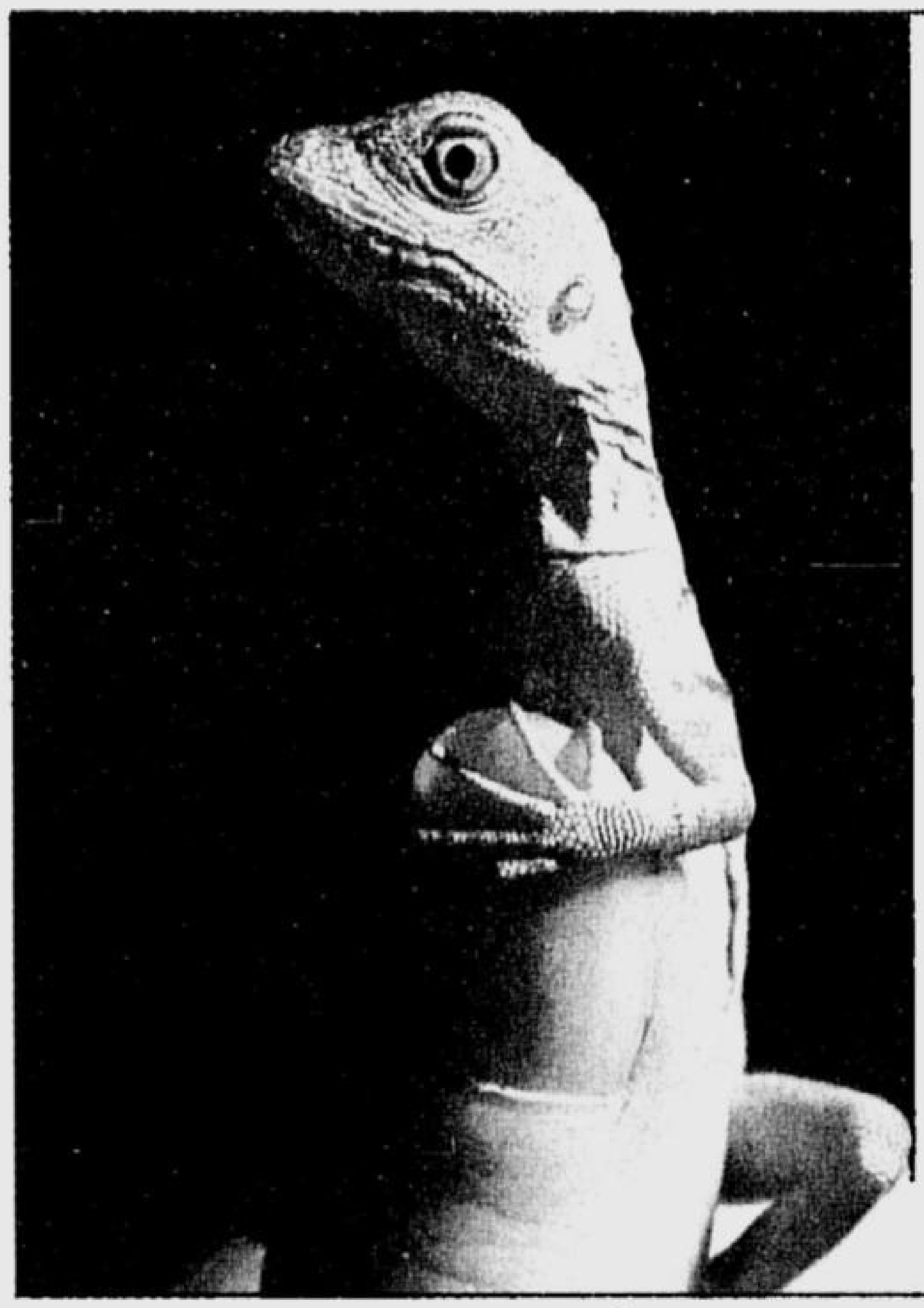
For more information on Aso't Pusa ATBP, visit the clinic at No. 1 P. Guevarra St., San Juan, Metro Manila or call at 726-9139 or 726-1762 and look for Dr. Sonny, Dr. Amy or Dr. Mitzi. Happy World Animal Day!

Pet Care Tips

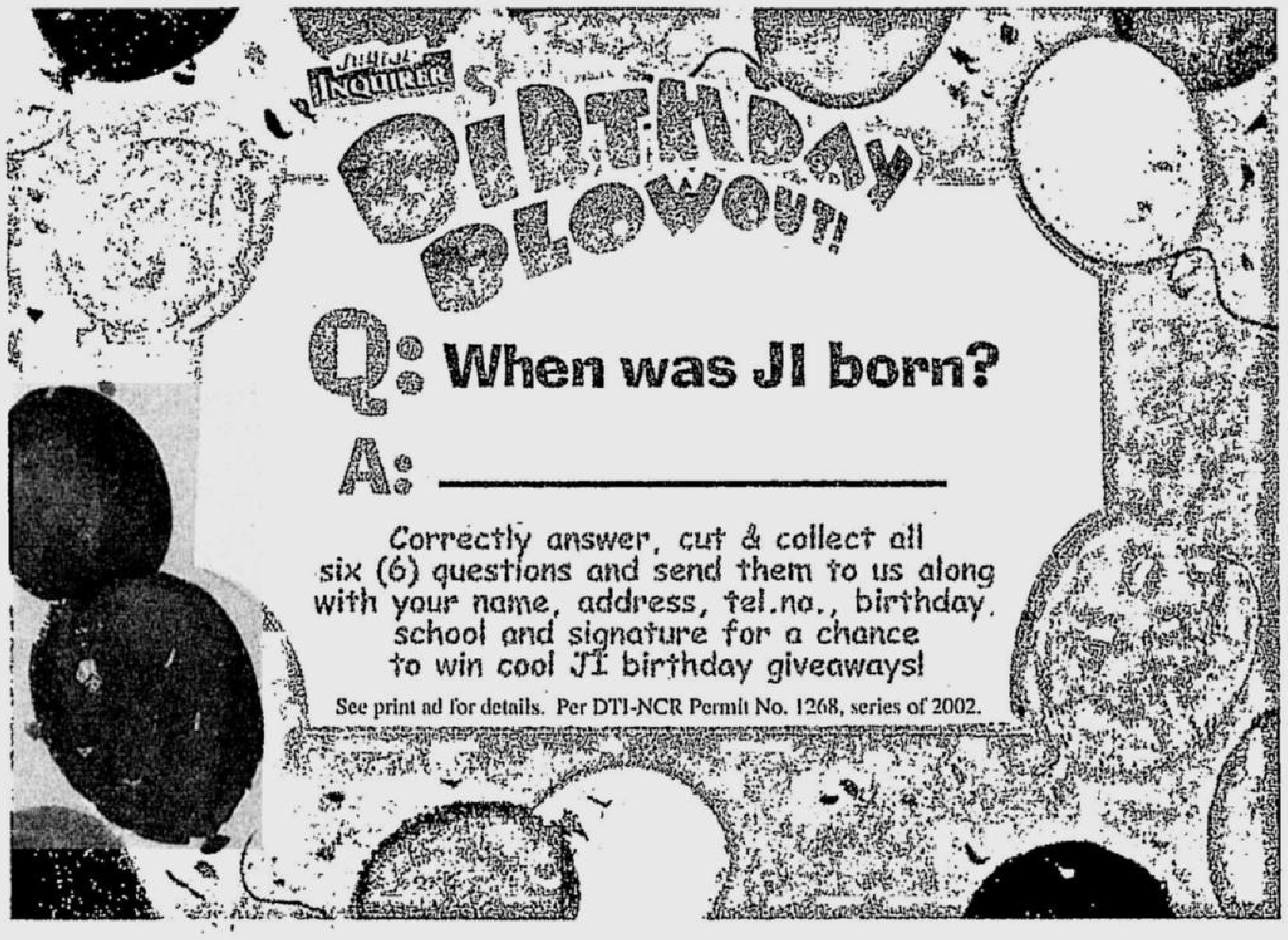


- **Talk to your pets!** Hug them and stroke them. Sick dogs and cats that have a strong bond with their human friends recover quickly than those that have been deprived of attention and love.
- Remember to always provide **clean water**, along with **healthy food**, for your dog or cat.
- Taking care of dogs and cats is much like taking care of kids like you. Tell your parents that your pets need **regular check-ups** and immunization against diseases, too. Ask your pet's veterinarian about these vaccinations. Pets should be brought to the vet at least twice a year.
- **Bathe your dogs** at least once a week to maintain their normal body oil. Do not bathe them in the early morning or late afternoon to avoid respiratory diseases such as pneumonia.
- If you think you can't commit to pets by giving them **enough attention** and care, then it's better not to keep pets at all.





BE KIND TO ANIMALS! This baby crested Basilisk lizard looks like he means business. Maybe he wants to remind humans to take better care of the Earth! The basilisk is also called the Jesus lizard. It was born in Spring at Taronga Zoo in Sydney, Australia. *AP*



Q: When was JI born?

A: ____________________

Correctly answer, cut & collect all six (6) questions and send them to us along with your name, address, tel.no., birthday, school and signature for a chance to win cool JI birthday giveaways!

See print ad for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1268, series of 2002.

Ang Madyiker

Ni Genaro R. Gojo Cruz

SA TUWING uuwi si Tatay sa hapon, iba't iba ang kanyang dala.

May timbang may lamat, palangganang may uka, kalderong bingaw, at kaserolang butas.

Mas marami ang bote na may iba't ibang laki; may bilog, kwadrado, at lapad, may mahaba ang leeg, punggok at mga botelya ng gamot na kulay-sampalok.

Minsan nga pinagtatabi-tabi ko ang mga boteng naka-displey sa loob ng aming bahay na parang mga bilding.

Natutuwa ako, kay sarap nilang pagmasdan. Para na rin akong nakarating sa lugar na may matataas na bilding.

Guhit ni Abigail Goy

Hindi lang mga bote ang iniuuwi ni Tatay, may mga dyaryo din, bakal, at kung anu-ano pa. Hindi ko alam kung saan kinukuha ni Tatay ang lahat nang ito. Ang alam ko lang, ito ang trabaho niya.

KAPAG umaalis si Tatay sa umaga, walang laman ang kanyang kariton ngunit pagdating niya sa hapon, punong-puno ito. Malapit na ngang mapuno ang loob ng aming bahay dahil sa mga iniuuwi ni Tatay.

Minsan may mga sirang *washing machine,* may *electric fan* na walang plug, rep na walang pintuan, at radyong walang pihitan. Rep ang aking damitan.

Washing machine ang taguan namin ng bigas at ulam. Mga TV at radyong kulang-kulang ang pihitan ang mga displey namin sa bahay. Pero karamihan, ibinibenta niya kay Mang Ruben.

'Yung mga plastik, bakal, at dyaryo ay kinikilo. 'Yung mga bote ay isa-isang binibilang. At 'yung mga sirang kagamitan, kada piraso ang bayad.

Hindi ko alam kung saan kinukuha ni Tatay ang lahat ng ito basta sa gabi, sumasarap ang aming hapunan.

NAGTATAKA ako. Bakit kaya hindi nauubusan ng mga iniuuwing gamit si Tatay? Saan niya nakukuha ang mga ito? Siguro may madyik si Tatay.

Minsan isang hapon, tinawag ako ni Tatay.

"Halika't may ibibigay ako sa'yo."

Niyaya niya ako sa kanyang kariton at hinalukay ang mga natitirang laman nito. May hinahanap siya.

Siguro ipapalinis lang niya sa akin ang mga boteng may kakaibang hugis at kulay upang idagdag sa mga displey naming mga bote sa loob ng bahay.

Ngunit hindi. Iniabot niya sa akin ang isang paa ng tsinelas.

"Nakuha ko ito kanina. Kinuha ko dahil alam kong kasya sa'yo."

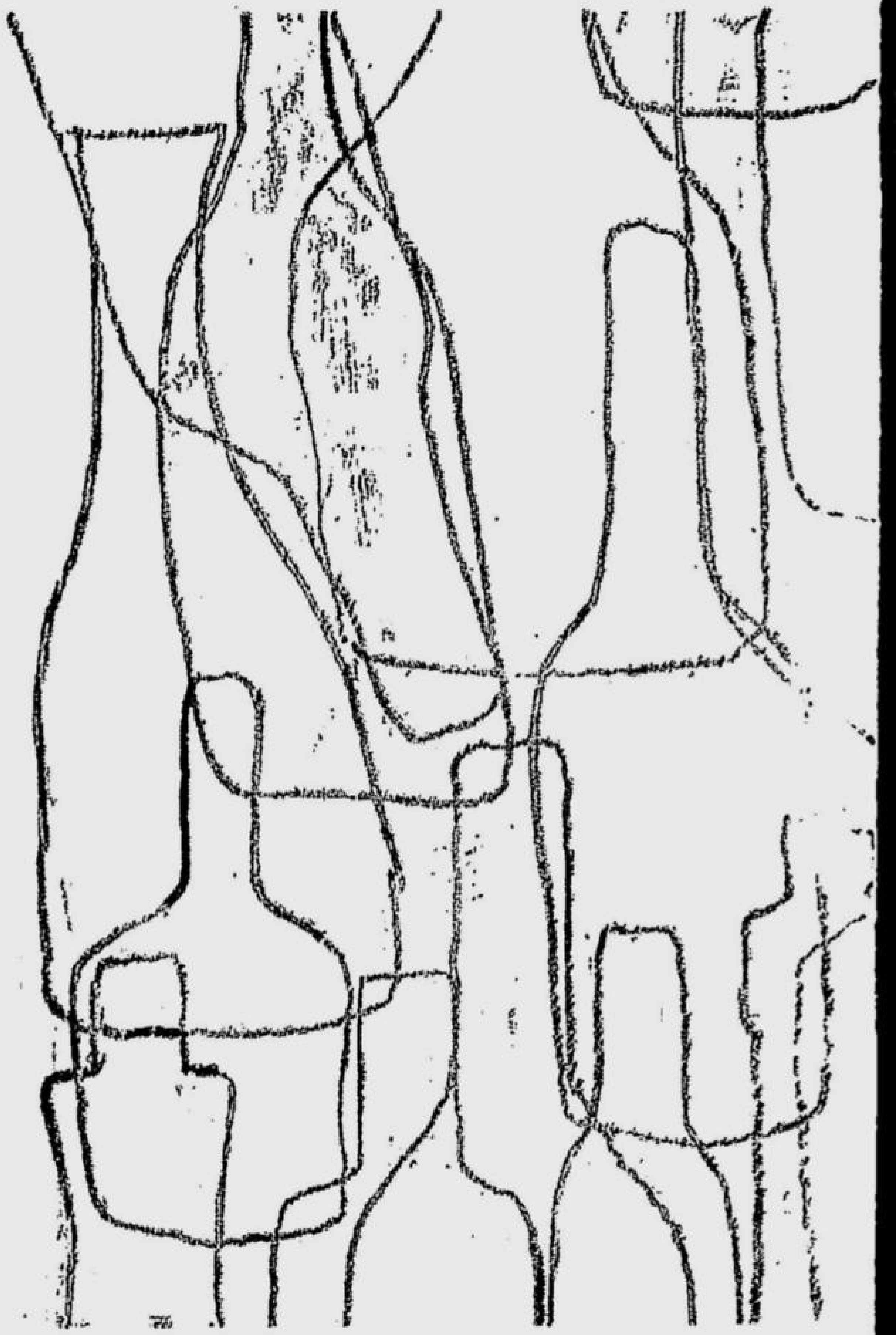
Maganda at bago pa ang isang paa ng tsinelas. Kulay-pula ito. Ngunit bakit iisang paa? Paano ko ito maisusuot?

"Bukas, hahanapan ko iyan ng kapaa."

Itinabi ko ang isang paa ng tsinelas kasabay ang paghiling na sana'y matagpuan ni Tatay ang kapares ng tsinelas. Matagal-tagal na rin kasi akong nagtitiis sa aking lumang tsinelas.

DUMAMI nang dumami ang mga tsinelas na iniuuwi ni Tatay araw-araw ngunit hindi magkakapares. Kaya't ang ginagawa ko, hinahanap ko ang magkakasinlaking tsinelas.

Isang kanan at isang kaliwa saka ko isinusuot. Nagugulat nga ang aking mga kalaro dahil araw-araw iba't iba



ang disenyo at kulay ng tsinelas na isinusuot ko. Sabi nila, ang dami ko raw tsinelas ngunit magkakaiba ang kulay.

Napapansin ko suwerte sa laro ang mga tsinelas na iniuuwi ni Tatay. Kapag habulan, tumutulin ang aking takbo. Kapag taguan, madali kong nakikita ang mga nagtatago. Kapag patintero, madali akong nakakatawid sa linya.

At kapag napapagod ako, parang itinataas ako nito sa langit. Saan kaya kinukuha ni Tatay ang mga tsinelas?

Minsan isang kahong putul-putol na krayola ang uwi ni Tatay. At mula sa patung-patong na dyaryo ay kumuha siya ng malaking kulayan. Tinuruan niya akong magkulay. Berde sa dahon, dilaw sa araw, pula sa man-

"Lal

Ta

hi

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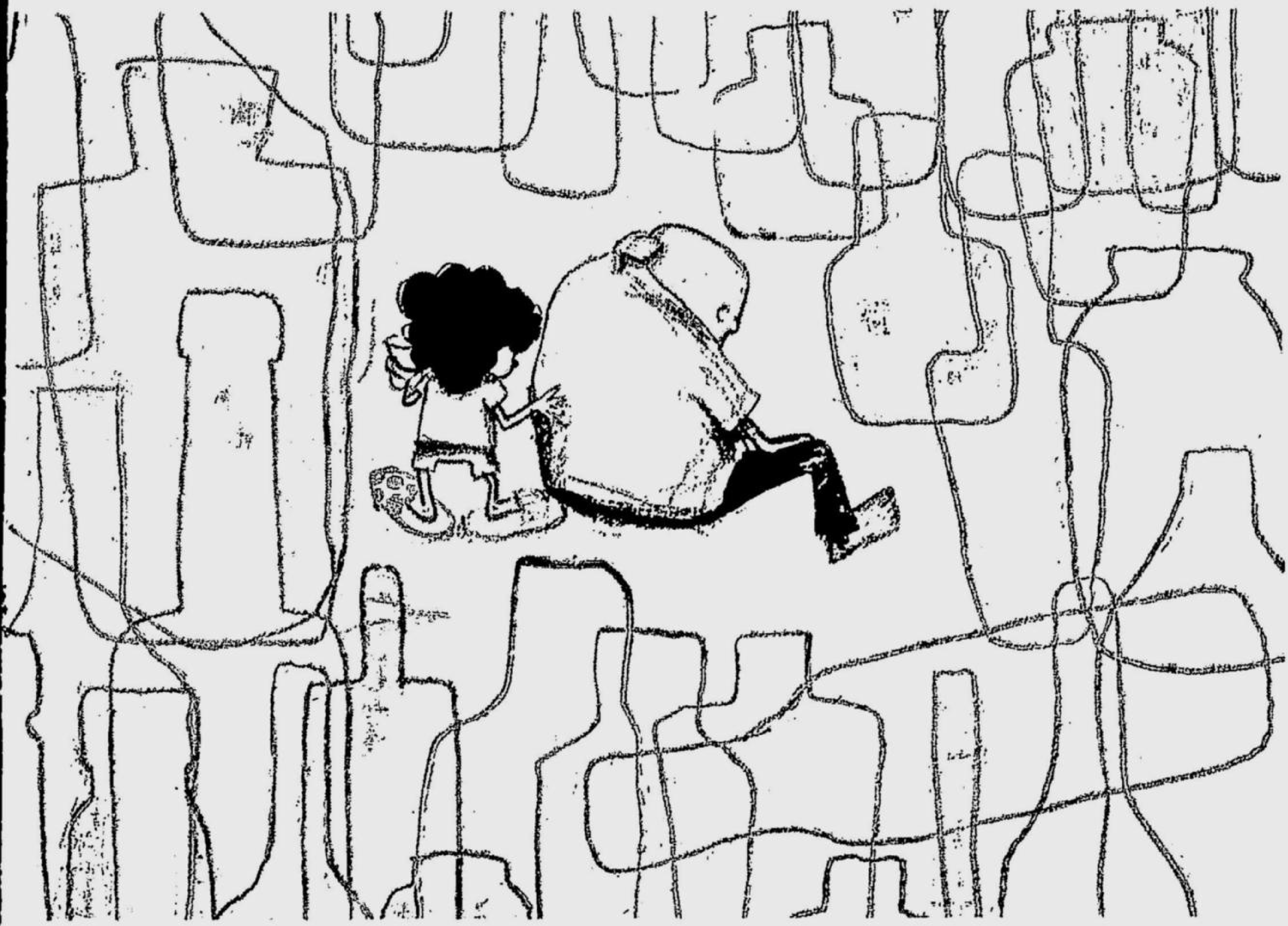
eskw

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ong si Tatay



o kong minahal si

tay. Kailanman

nding-hindi ko

ihihiya ang mga

gay at gamit sa

elahan na iniuuwi

niya...”

sanas at iba’t iba pa.

SABI NI Tatay, kailangan maging maingat sa pagkukulay. Dapat ay walang lampas. Masarap palang magkulay. Ang dating walang kulay ay nagkakabuhay. Bumilib ako kay Tatay, ang galing pala niyang magkulay. Pero saan kaya niya kinukuha ang mga krayola?

Minsan, mga librong kulang-kulang ang pahina naman ang uwi niya sa akin. Kinuwentuhan niya ako ng mga kuwento mula sa libro. Nakakatuwa, may premyo palang nakalaan sa mga batang mababait at masusunurin. Tinuruan din niya akong magbasa. Sabi ni Tatay, malapit na akong mag-aral. Sa susunod na pasukan na raw.

“Sa iskul anak, marami kang magiging kaibigan. May mga guro na tuturuan ka.”

Pero ang nasa isip ko, saan kaya niya kinukuha ang mga libro?

Inuwian din niya ako ng isang bag na may tagpi, lapis na upod, pamburang kakapiraso, pantasang mapurol at ruler na puno pa ng lupa. Tuwang-tuwa ako. Puwede na talaga akong mag-aral sa darating na pasukan. Kumpleto na ang aking gamit.

Isa pa, marami akong tsinelas. Pero patuloy pa rin akong nagtataka kay Tatay. Saan kaya niya kinukuha ang mga ito? Siguro may madyik pati ang kanyang kariton.

DUMATING pasukan. Sabik na sabik na ako. Ano kaya ang mayroon sa iskul?

Maraming batang katulad ko ang aking nakita. May mga bag at gamit din silang dala ngunit ang kakaiba lang, nakasapatos sila. Pero ang sabi ni Tatay, ganoon talaga. Basta’t malinis, ayos na. Ngunit bakit walang lumalapit sa akin?

At ang aking guro, bibihira akong lapitan upang turuan. Parang wala ako. Parang hindi nila ako nakikita. Para lang akong hangin. Mali si Tatay, walang premyo sa batang mabait at masunurin. Sa iskul, wala akong magiging kaibigan at walang gurong tuturuan ako.

Isang hapon, dumating si Tatay na walang laman ang kariton. Patang-pata ang kanyang katawan. Nangingitim ang kanyang kamiseta at naglitaw ang mga ugat sa kanyang braso. Bigla akong naawa sa kanya. Parang biglang nawala na ang madyik ni Tatay. Ikinuha ko siya ng tubig.

“ISINARADO na ang tambakan,” ang sabi niya sa akin pagkaabot ko ng tubig.

“Tambakan?” ang tanong ko sa sarili.

“Kaya naghanap ako ng ibang tambakan ngunit hindi ako pinapasok ng ibang basurero na naghahalukay doon.”

Noon ko lang nalaman na wala pala talagang madyik si Tatay. Ang lahat ng kanyang iniuuwi tuwing hapon ay galing sa tambakan sa mga basura.

Lalo kong minahal si Tatay. Kailanman hinding-hindi ko ikahihiya ang mga bagay at gamit sa eskwelahan na iniuuwi niya lalo na ang mga tsinelas.

At hinding-hindi ko rin ikahihiya ang kanyang trabaho. Madyikero pa rin si Tatay para sa akin. Pakiramdam ko, iisa lang ang puwede kong maging Tatay sa buong mundo. Kailanman hindi ko ipagpapalit sa ibang Tatay, ang Tatay kong madyikero.

*Si **Genaro** ay tubong-San Jose del Monte Bulacan ngunit naninirahan sa Manila.*

*Si **Abi** ay miyembro ng Ilustrador ng Kabataan (Ang InK).*

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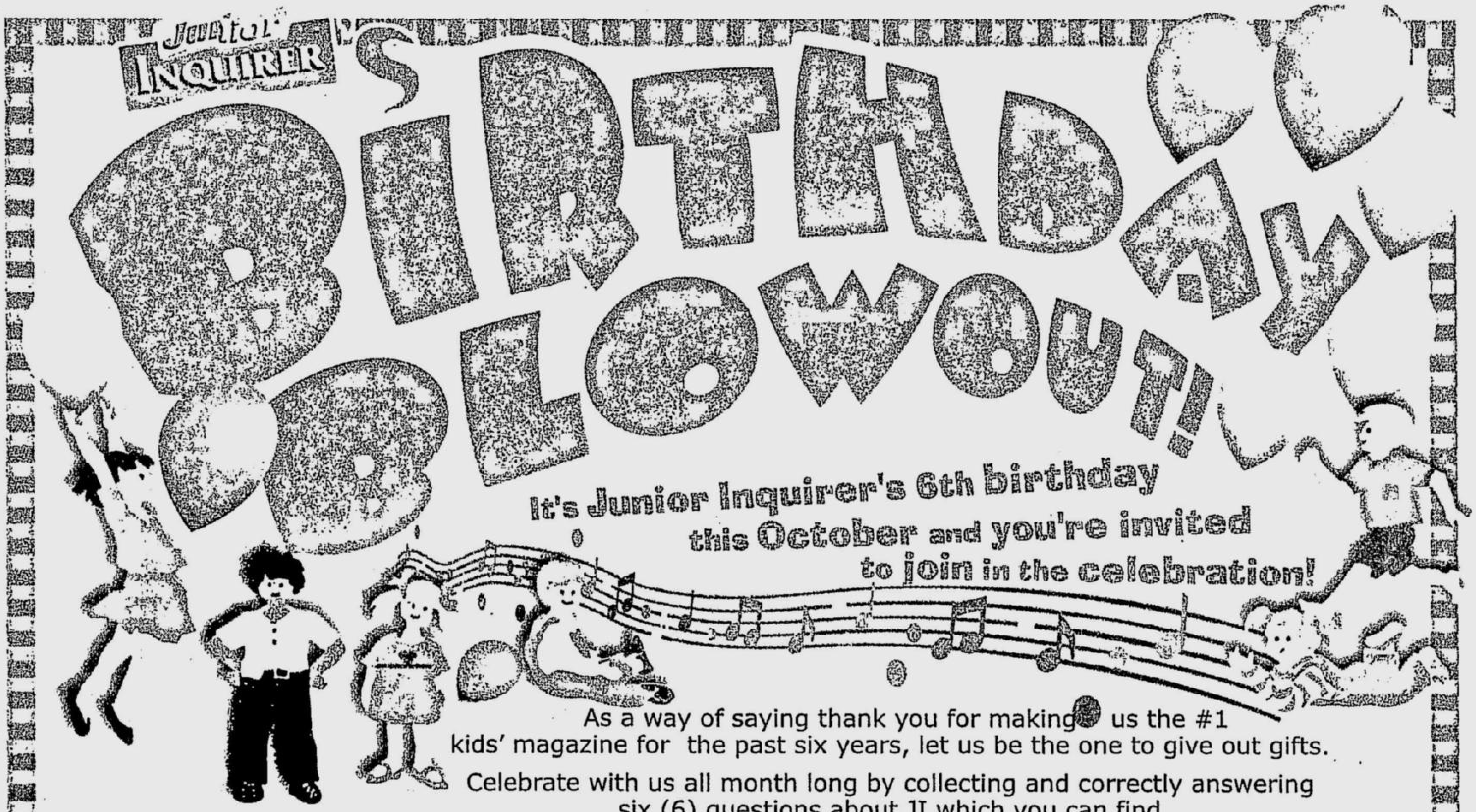
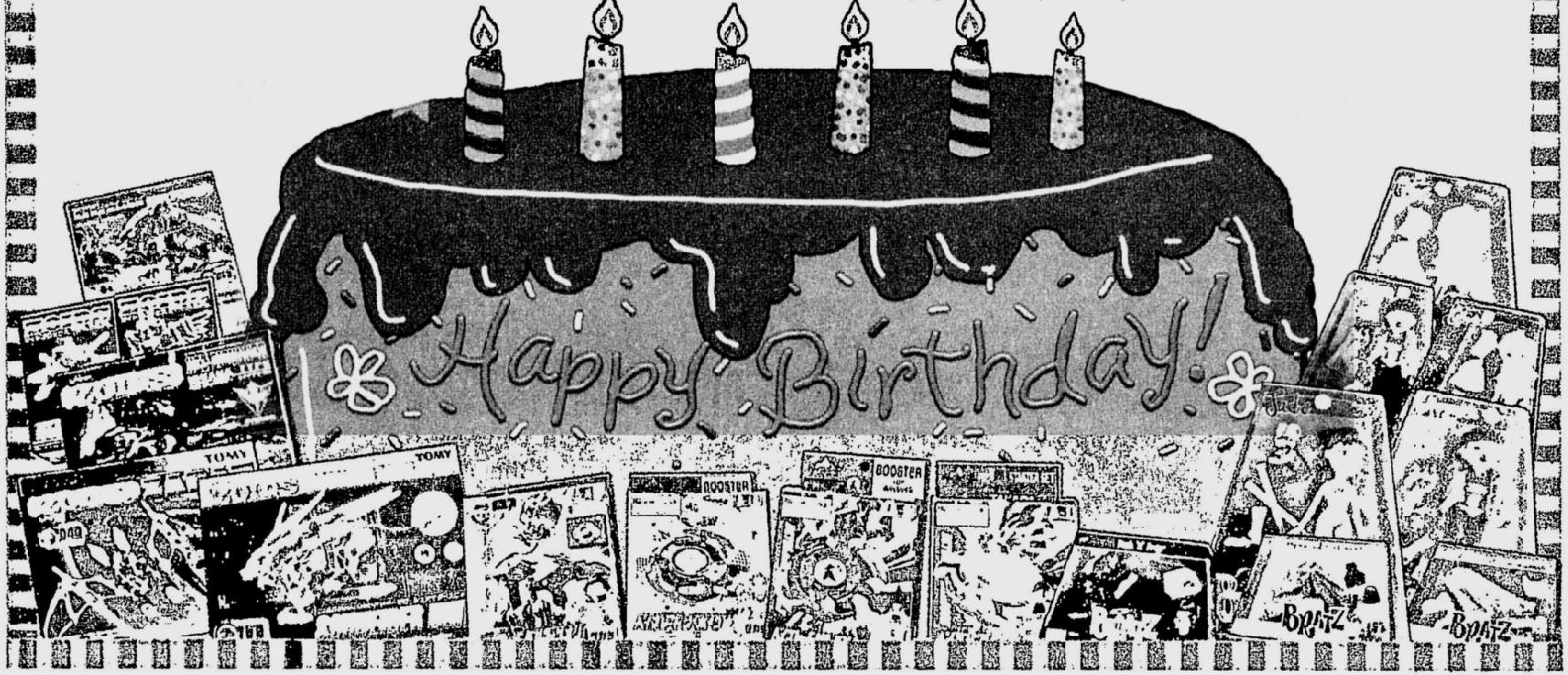
Junior INQUIRER's BIRTHDAY BLOWOUT!



It's Junior Inquirer's 6th birthday this October and you're invited to join in the celebration!

As a way of saying thank you for making us the #1 kids' magazine for the past six years, let us be the one to give out gifts.

Celebrate with us all month long by collecting and correctly answering six (6) questions about JI which you can find within the pages of our October 5, 12 and 19, 2002 issues. Place them in an envelope with a piece of paper containing your name, address, birthday, name of school and signature. Then, send it to us for a chance to win any of the cool prizes we're raffling off as our birthday giveaways for you.



PROMO MECHANICS:

1. The promotion is open to children 5 to 12 years old. For three (3) consecutive Saturdays starting October 5, 2002, two (2) questions about the Junior Inquirer will be featured in each Junior Inquirer issue.
2. Kids are tasked to correctly answer and collect all six (6) questions that will come out in the three (3) issues published within the promo duration (October 5, 12 and 19) and on a piece of paper, write their name; address; telephone number, school and date of birth, and affix signature. Then, put all inside a white legal size envelope and mail to 'Junior Inquirer Birthday Blowout' c/o Junior Inquirer, Philippine Daily Inquirer Chino Roces cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., 1231 Makati City.
3. This serves as a single official entry to the raffle draw during which 15 winners will be drawn to win any one of the following:

   5 Bratz dolls with fashion pack 5 Zoids Robot Toys 5 Takura Beyblades Toys
4. Entries must be received by 5:00pm of October 23 to qualify for the raffle draw. Only entries with the complete number of correctly answered questions are valid.
5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw.
6. The raffle draw will be held on October 28, 2002 at 4:00pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.
7. Raffle prizes are not convertible to cash.
8. Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail and their names will be announced via print ads.
9. Winners can claim their prizes at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID (school ID or passport).
10. Raffle prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from DTI.
11. Employees and staff of PDI, their advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
12. Promo is valid only in GMA.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1268, series of 2002.

JESSIE hangs out with two of her canine buddies.

MIKE ALQUINTO

Part of the Family

Eight-year-old Jessie just loves her world of pets.

By Mae Astrid Tobias

IT is only natural for 8-year-old Jessica Ramirez to love animals. They have surrounded her for as long as she can remember. Aside from the pet dogs her mother and grandparents used to keep, their rooftop always seemed to be teeming with doves and pigeons.

Right now, Jessie takes care of five pet dogs—Sammy, Britney, Maximus, Rocko and Scooby and an aquarium with goldfishes.

"I probably got my love for animals from my mom because she also loves them," she said.

Best Pal Sam

Of all her pets, Jessie is closest to Sammy. That's because for seven years, Jessie was an only child. She didn't really feel like one though because her golden retriever Sammy kept her company. They even sleep in bed together.

Jessie even thought of Sammy as her sister, not just a pet. Now she has a new human sister. Justine was born 10 months ago.

Gentle Dog

One good quality about Sammy, Jessie noted, is that she is really good with young children. She is so gentle and friendly, that even baby Justine doesn't get scared of this really big dog. Whenever Jessie's classmates come to visit, they would dress Sammy up in all sorts of clothes.

"I wish I could bring (my pets) wherever I go," shared Jessie.

That's why on weekends, Jessie and her family bring their pet dogs to the park or, sometimes, out of town. That's when Jessie teaches tricks to Sammy, Britney and Maximus.

In school at Miriam College in Quezon City, Jessie is really known to be good with animals. There was one time, Jessie's best friend bought a chick that died after a few days. She called up Jessie so that she would be the one in charge of the burial ceremony.

Good Deeds

Jessie likes to talk about her pets so much. Her pets are mostly the topic of her letters to her half-Finnish, half-Spanish pen pal, Johanna, whom she met and last saw when she was only 3 years old. Until now, the two of them exchange stories about their pets through postcards.

"I wish I had a farm where I could keep a lot of animals," said Jessie. She also wishes to get more pets. Another dog or a hamster, maybe. Jessie and her mom are also planning to volunteer with PAWS so that they can help take care of other animals they cannot keep.

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids r' rrific

nomination form

I nominate: ____________________
____
____
Age: ____________________
I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____
____
____
____
____
She/he lives at ____________________
____
____
and studies at ____________________
____
Her/his contact number is:
____
Sender's Name: ____________________
____
Sender's Age & School: ____________________
____
Sender's Address: ____________________
____
Sender's Contact No.: ____________________
____
____

KEY LIGHTING KEYBOARD
Only From
CASIO

¿Thinkathon?

SMALL WORLD

TO score big in this quiz, you have to identify the "small wonders" described below—actually, they're the smallest of their kind. So think really small and pick out the winners in each number.

1. Smallest bird in the world and the only one that can fly backwards: 2.24 inches in length and weighs 0.056 ounce
   - O bee hummingbird
   - O pygmy robin
   - O spine-tailed swift

2. Smallest independent country in the world: 440,352.4 square meters
   - O Hong Kong
   - O Monte Carlo
   - O Vatican City

3. Smallest bone in the human body: 0.10-0.13 inch in length and weighs from 0.03-0.066 grains
   - O stapes or stirrup
   - O appendix
   - O lachrymal bone

4. Smallest flower in the world: 0.024 inch long and 0.013 inch wide
   - O American tiny lily
   - O Australian aquatic duckweed
   - O Chinese wisteria

5. Smallest planet in the solar system: 2,288 kilometers (1,430 miles) in diameter with a mass only 0.0023 that of the Earth
   - O Mercury
   - O Mars
   - O Pluto

6. Smallest ever PBA Most Valuable Player: 5 feet 11 inches (180 cm)
   - O Renato "Ato" Agustin
   - O Ricardo Brown
   - O Johnny Abarrientos

7. Smallest known mature dog in the world: stood 2½ inches at the shoulder, measured 3¾ inches from nose to tail, and weighed 4 ounces.
   - O Chihuahua
   - O Yorkshire terrier
   - O Toy poodle

8. Smallest continent: 4.6 million square km
   - O Antarctica
   - O Europe
   - O Australia

9. Smallest world heavyweight boxing champion: 5 feet 7 inches in height and weighed between 168-180 lbs.
   - O Mike Tyson
   - O Rocky Marciano
   - O Tommy Burns

10. Smallest known marine fish in the world: 0.34 inch in length
    - O dwarf goby (*Trimmaton nanus*) of the Chagos Archipelago
    - O pygmy goby (*Pandaka pygmaea*) of the Philippines
    - O dwarf goldfish (*Carassius auratus*) of China

Answers:

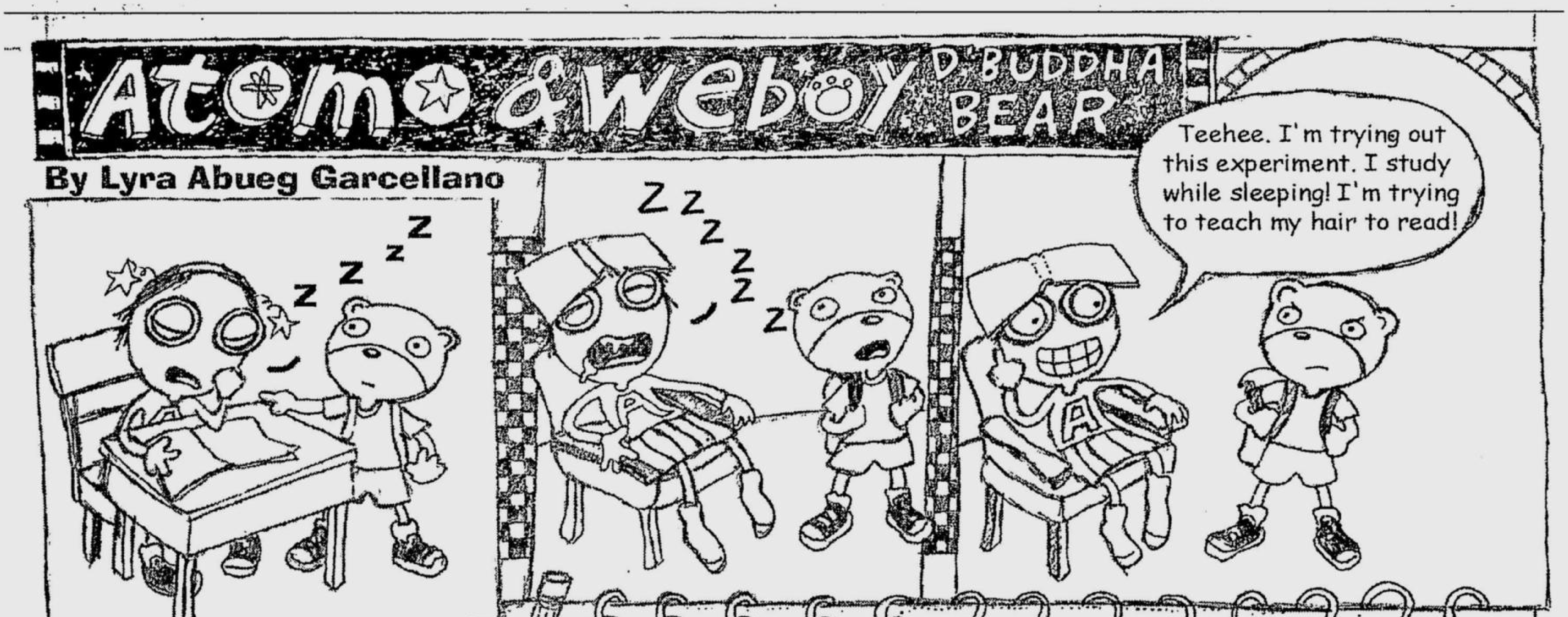
1. bee hummingbird
2. Vatican City or Holy See
3. Stapes or stirrup bone (in your middle ear)
4. Australian aquatic duckweed
5. Pluto
6. Johnny Abarrientos
7. Yorkshire terrier
8. Australia
9. Tommy Burns (Canada), champion from 1906-1908
10. dwarf goby (*Trimmaton nanus*) of the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean

Ratings:

superbrain!
9-10

7-8

6-7


Atomo & Weboy D'Buddha Bear
Z Z Z Z
Z Z Z Z Z Z
Teehee. I'm trying out this experiment. I study while sleeping! I'm trying to teach my hair to read!

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

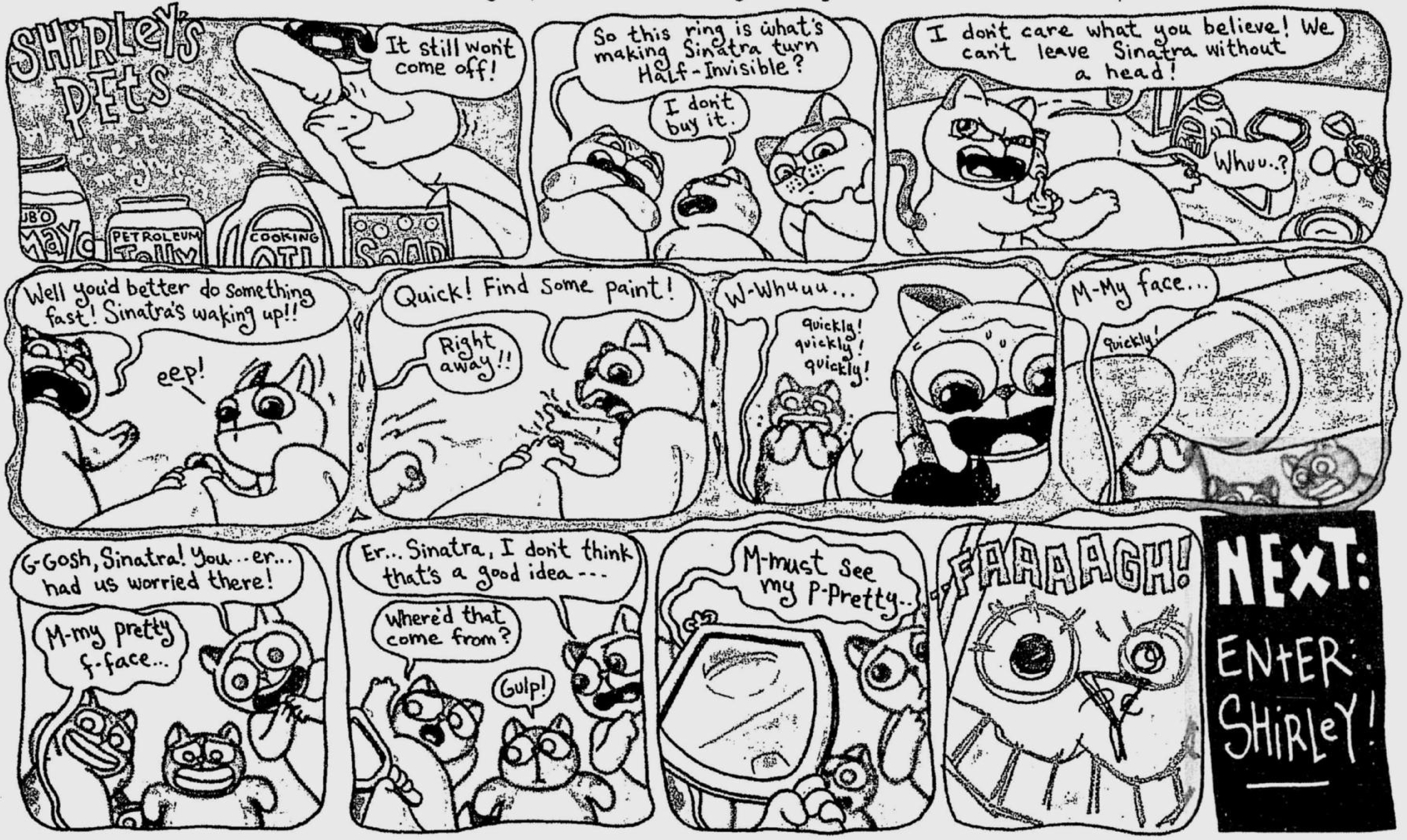
What if we can review an entire book for a test while watching a movie? What if we can play computer games and still get our school assignments done with one push of a button? WELL IT'S NOT GONNA WORK. So, move your dainty buns and study! It's a big day or week in school. It's the time for TESTS! Uh-oh.

ATOMO & WEBOY super study tips:

1. Review your lessons every now and then so you don't have to cram for quizzes and tests.
2. Eat vegetables. Not just before the big day! All that junk food makes you sludgy. A healthy body makes for a healthy brain.
3. Ask questions in class! By asking questions you get to learn the lessons easily.
4. Have fun studying. Relax, review, and revel in learning!

JUNIOR INQUIRER

Last Episode: Sinatra Therese has fainted from the realization that parts of her body have been disappearing. But now it seems that her head has vanished for good, unless Little John can get the ring off before his vain sister wakes up...


SHIRLEY'S PETS
It still won't come off!
UBO MAYO
PETROLEUM JELLY
COOKING OIL
SOAP
So this ring is what's making Sinatra turn Half-Invisible?
I don't buy it.
I don't care what you believe! We can't leave Sinatra without a head!
Whuu..?
Well you'd better do something fast! Sinatra's waking up!!
eep!
Quick! Find some paint!
Right away!!
W-Whuuu...
quickly! quickly! quickly!
M-My face...
quickly!
G-Gosh, Sinatra! You...er... had us worried there!
M-my pretty f-face...
Er... Sinatra, I don't think that's a good idea---
Where'd that come from?
Gulp!
M-must see my P-Pretty..
FAAAAGH!
NEXT: ENTER SHIRLEY!

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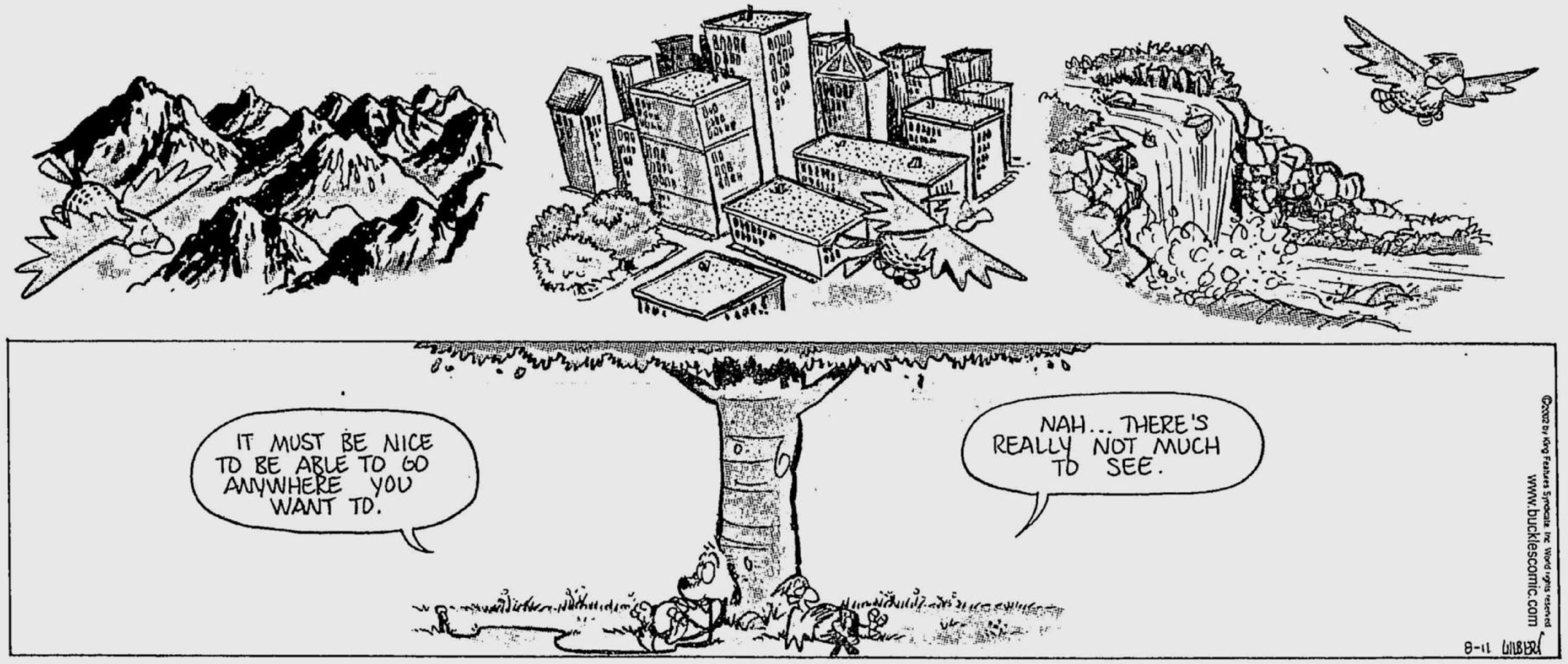
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


IT MUST BE NICE TO BE ABLE TO GO ANYWHERE YOU WANT TO.
NAH... THERE'S REALLY NOT MUCH TO SEE.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1755 Series of 2002

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